THE CHILLING ARCHIVES OF HORROR COMICS!™
YOE® COMICS
FORELOCK the WARLOCK
HAUNTED HORROR™
#6
$3.99
WARNING!
I AM MR. KARSWELL!
OPEN THE COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE SLOWLY BECAUSE IT'S LOADED...WITH HORRORS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE AND WHICH YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET!

MADAM CLIZIA
WELCOME MY MINIONS! KNEEL BEFORE YOUR MISTRESS, MADAM CLIZIA! AND NOW I COMMAND YOU TO GO AND ENJOY OUR LATEST HOARD OF HORROR TALES. YOU'RE DISMISSED!
Art by
Drazen Kozjan

Look for another spine-tingling issue of *Haunted Horror* in two months!

If you collect horror comics and other Golden Age fare, we're always looking for scans for use in our books and comics. Please contact Craig Yoe through Facebook.

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On the cover, *Beware! Terror Tales* #5, January 1953. Artist: Bernard Baily.

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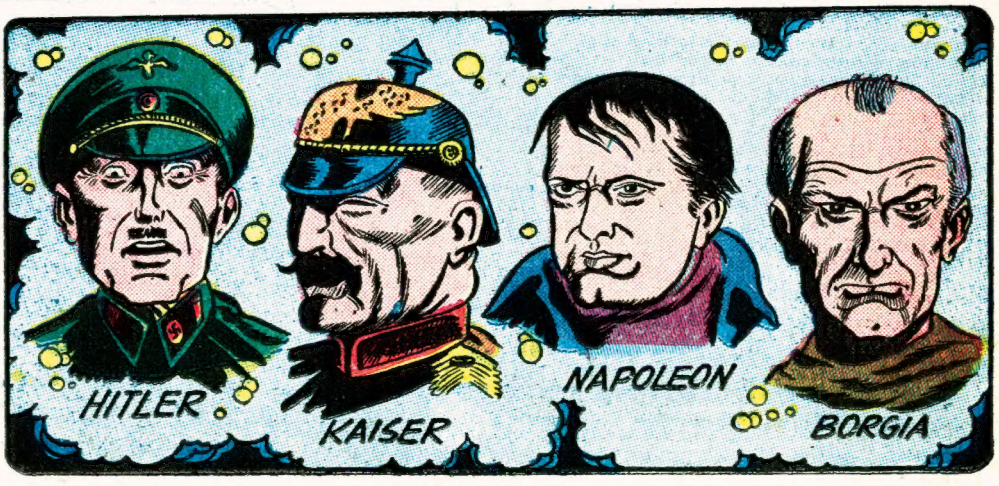
THE POWER OF LOVE IS GREATER THAN LIFE ITSELF! IT CAN CREATE... IT CAN DESTROY ...IT CAN HORRIFY! BUT BALUK KHAN, THE CONQUEROR, THOUGHT NOTHING COULD WITHSTAND HIS MIGHT... NOT EVEN...

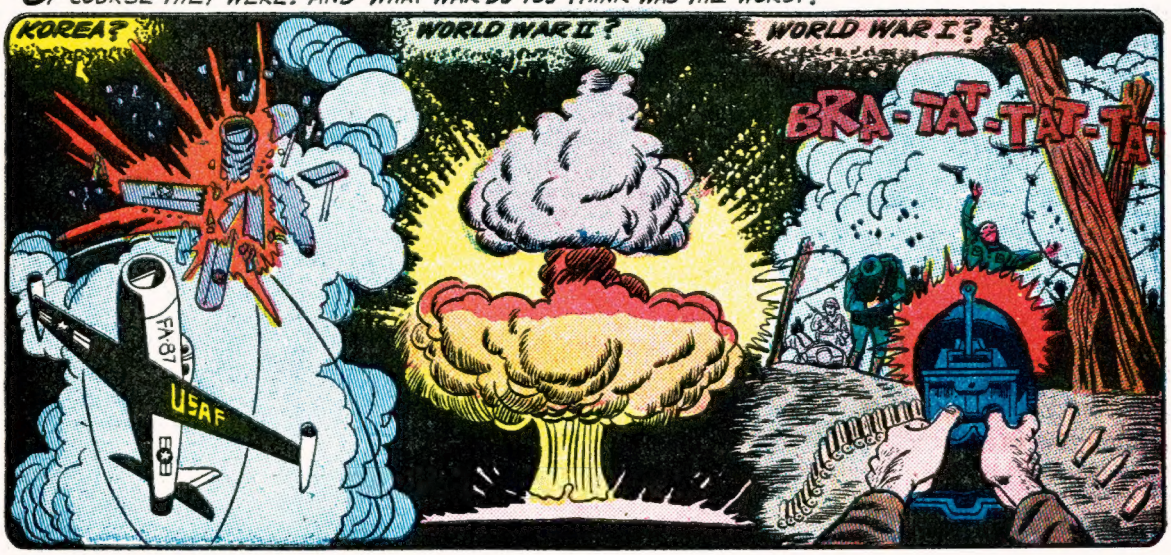
THE IMPROVED KISS

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MURDERER'S FACE? NOTHING TERRIBLE ABOUT IT, IS THERE? THEY ARE MEN! AND THESE WERE MEN TOO! BUT LOOK CLOSELY ... ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ABOUT THEM? SOMETHING THAT SAYS THEY ARE KILLERS? .....

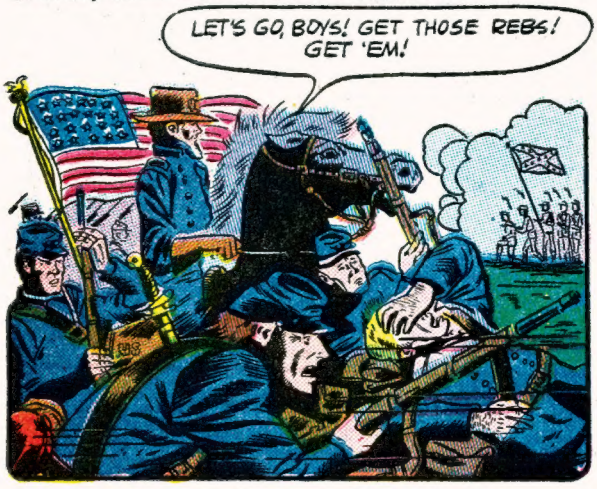


Weird Terror #8, November 1953. Artist: Marty Elkin. Publisher: Comic Media.

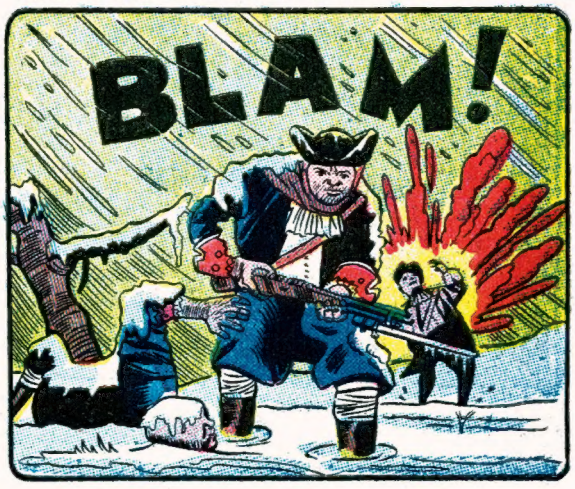
OF COURSE THEY WERE! AND WHAT WAR DO YOU THINK WAS THE WORST?



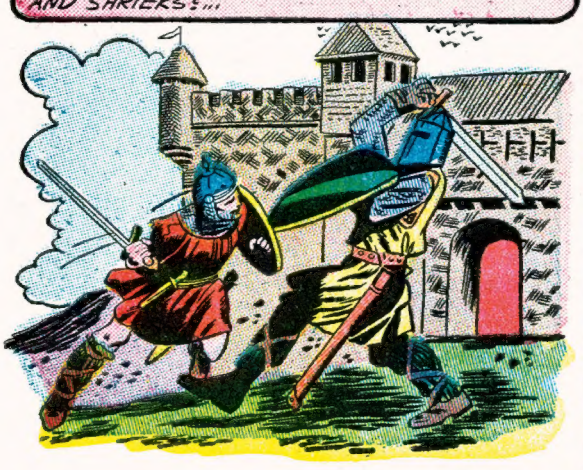
...OR WAS THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES THE MOST TERRIBLE? SURELY,, MEN DIED, BLOOD WAS SPILLED, BODIES WERE MAIMED,, TERROR WAS BORN..



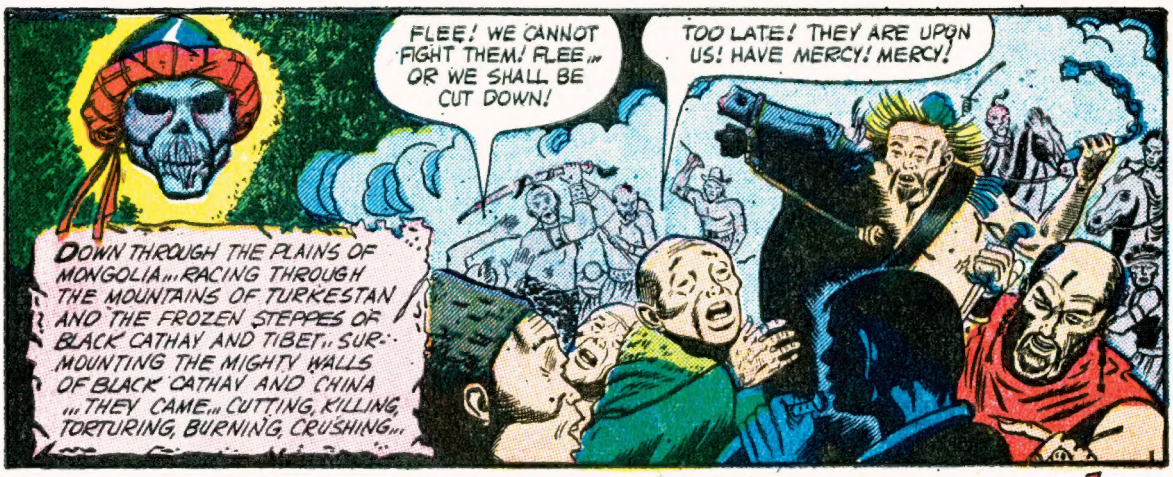
AND TURN BACK THE PAGES OF TIME! TURN BACK TO THAT FROZEN DAY WHEN NAPOLEON FOUGHT AGAINST THE RISING TIDE OF HIS SIBERIAN FOES...



BUT EVEN BEFORE HIM... WHEN MEDIEVAL BARONS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH FOR POWER AND LOOT... EVEN THEN WERE THERE NOT GROANS AND SCREAMS AND SHRIEKS?...



YES... ALL THIS AND MORE! BUT NOWHERE... AT NO TIME... WAS THERE SUCH A MORE HORRIBLE FOE THAN THE **HORDE**! THE **HORDE** WHO RODE AGAINST NATIONS... AND LEFT NOT EVEN A BLADE OF GRASS,, THE **HORDE** OF WAR! THE **HORDE** OF DEATH!


DOWN THROUGH THE PLAINS OF MONGOLIA... RACING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS OF TURKESTAN AND THE FROZEN STEPPES OF BLACK CATHAY AND TIBET... SURMOUNTING THE MIGHTY WALLS OF BLACK CATHAY AND CHINA ...THEY CAME... CUTTING, KILLING, TORTURING, BURNING, CRUSHING...
FLEE! WE CANNOT FIGHT THEM! FLEE... OR WE SHALL BE CUT DOWN!
TOO LATE! THEY ARE UPON US! HAVE MERCY! MERCY!

AND WHO WAS THEIR LEADER? WHO WAS THIS MIGHTY CONQUEROR... THIS RUTHLESS MASTERMIND OF THE **HORDE!** A LITTLE-KNOWN NAME, DEAR READER! A NAME THAT WOULD SEND SHIVERS OF FEAR DOWN YOUR BACKS HAD YOU KNOWN HIM PERSONALLY! **BALUK KHAN,** THE DESTROYER! **BALUK KHAN,** THE RIGHT ARM OF.... **GENGHIS KHAN!**

LET NO STONE BE UNTURNED! KILL MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THIS VILLAGE WILL NO LONGER EXIST! NAY... NOT EVEN ONE BLADE OF GRASS!..

AND HE MURDERED, AND HE KILLED, AND HE TORTURED,! AND THE RIVERS RAN RED WITH BLOOD...

NO! SPARE ME,, PLEASE! I WILL SERVE YOU FAITHFULLY!

YOU WILL SERVE ME BY LOSING YOUR LIFE!

THE TARTARS ARE VANQUISHED! THEIR LANDS, HERDS, POSSESSIONS, EVERYTHING! NOW IT'S MINE,, MINE!

BUT STILL HIS GREED RAN UNABATED,,

AND NOW,, FOR THE PROVINCE OF UZRUK!

GOTH

UZRUK

PANNO

UZRUK,, LAND OF THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE! A LAND RULED BY AN OLD MONARCH,, A MAN NO MATCH FOR THE SAVAGE BARBARIANS TO COME...

WHY SO SAD, FATHER? WHAT HAS RUINED THY HAPPINESS?

I FEAR FOR OUR LIVES, LARLA! YEA,, FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND BABE IN OUR FAIR LAND! BALUK APPROACHES OUR DOMAIN!

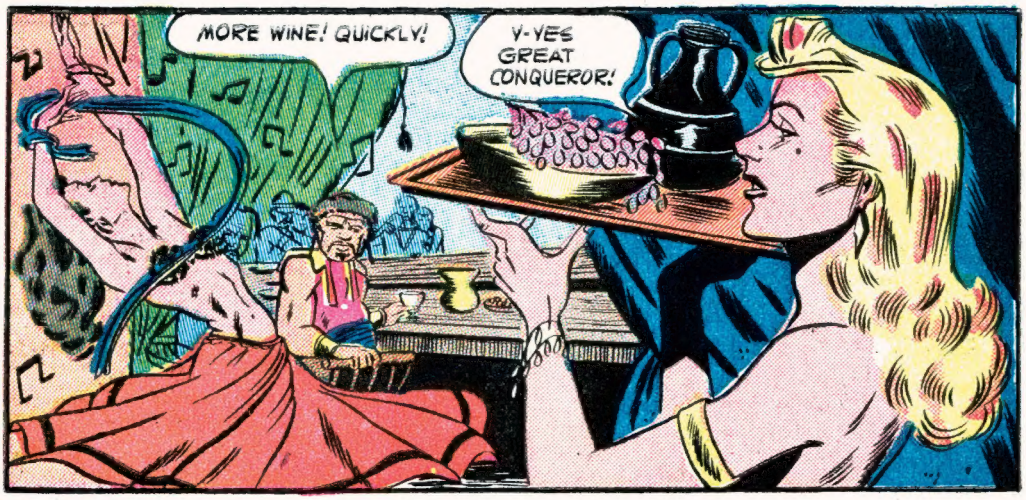
I HAVE HEARD OF HIS CRUELTY AND HIS HORDE! OUR SOLDIERS WILL BE NO MATCH FOR HIM! COULDN'T WE WIN HIM OVER BY KINDNESS AND BY FRIENDSHIP?

IT IS A HOPELESS TASK, MY SWEET! BUT PERHAPS,,, WE MAY USE BRIBERY, WHERE MIGHT CANNOT SUCCEED! HMMMM,,,

HO, RENZOR,,, VARLAN,, TOPAK! CALL OUR PEOPLE TOGETHER! WE MUST GIVE BALUKA GIANT FEAST! MAKE PREPARATIONS AT ONCE! HURRY!

YES, OH LORD! WE SHALL DO SO WITH ALL HASTE!

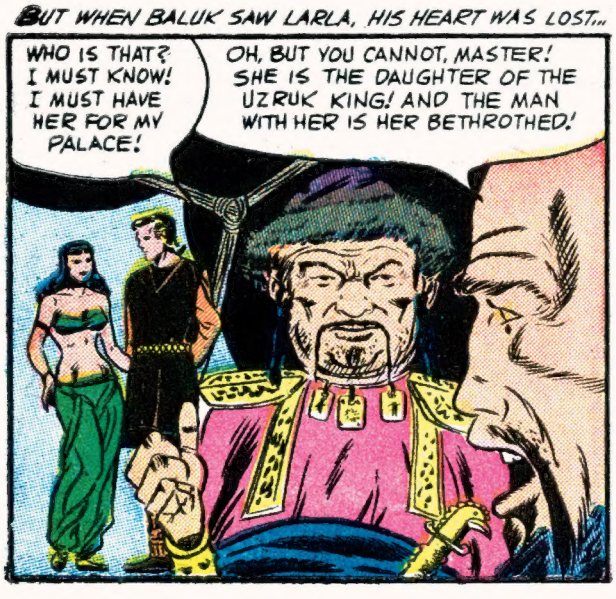
AND SO A GIANT CELEBRATION WAS ARRANGED,, IN HONOR OF THEIR "PROTECTOR" AND THEIR "FRIEND." THE MIGHTY BALUK KHAN...



BALUK LOVED TO EAT...

AND BALUK LOVED WOMEN...

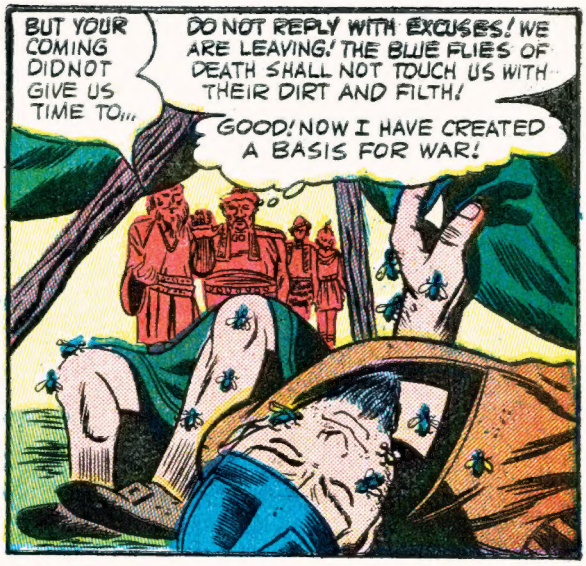
BUT WHEN BALUK SAW LARLA, HIS HEART WAS LOST...


WHO IS THAT? I MUST KNOW! I MUST HAVE HER FOR MY PALACE!
OH, BUT YOU CANNOT, MASTER! SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE UZRUK KING! AND THE MAN WITH HER IS HER BETHROTHED!

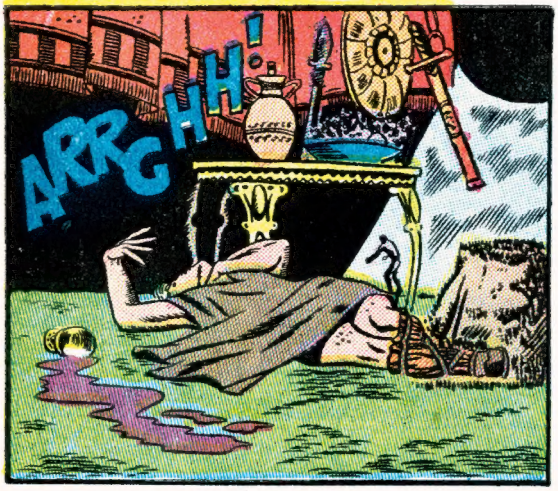
I CANNOT, OAF? I KNOW NOT SUCH A WORD! YOU SAY THAT FOOL WITH HER IS HER SWEETHEART? AH, PERHAPS WE MAY YET FIND A WAY TO.. AH.. CHANGE HIS MIND! YES.. I THINK SO....

AND BALUK MEANT EVERY WORD HE SAID...

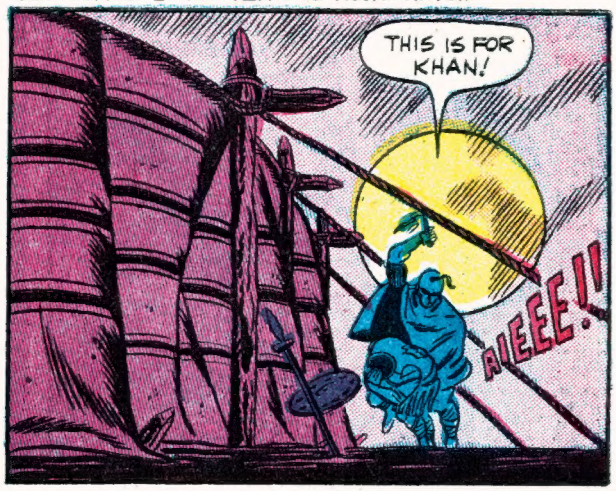
BUT WHERE DO YOU GO, BROTHER? ARE YOU NOT SATISFIED WITH THE FEAST IN YOUR HONOR?
WE CANNOT SIT IN THE CAMP OF THOSE WHO HAVE THE SCOURGE UPON THEM! BEHOLD!


BUT YOUR COMING DIDNOT GIVE US TIME TO...
DO NOT REPLY WITH EXCUSES! WE ARE LEAVING! THE BLUE FLIES OF DEATH SHALL NOT TOUCH US WITH THEIR DIRT AND FILTH!
GOOD! NOW I HAVE CREATED A BASIS FOR WAR!

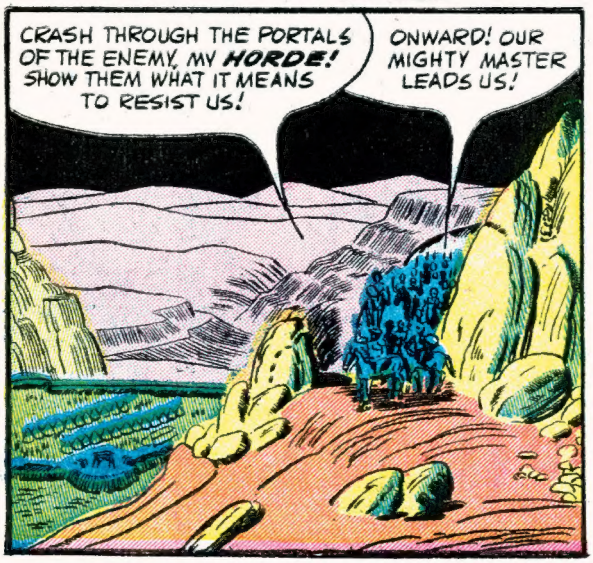
AND A FEW WEEKS LATER, IN THE TENT OF LARLA'S BETROTHED...



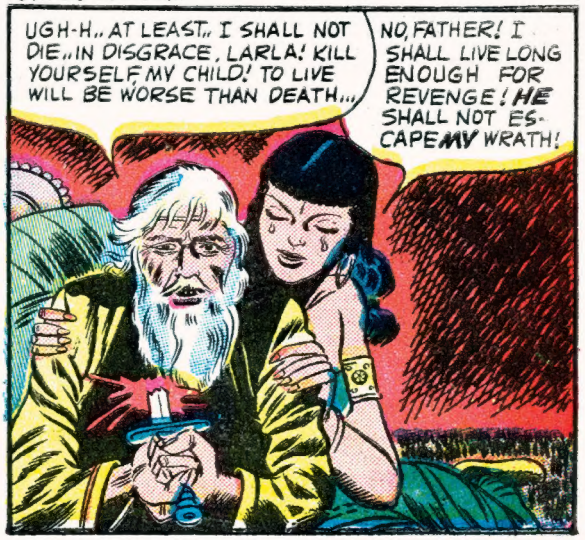
AND SOON AFTERWARDS... DEATH FOR THE KING'S BODYGUARD BY MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANTS...



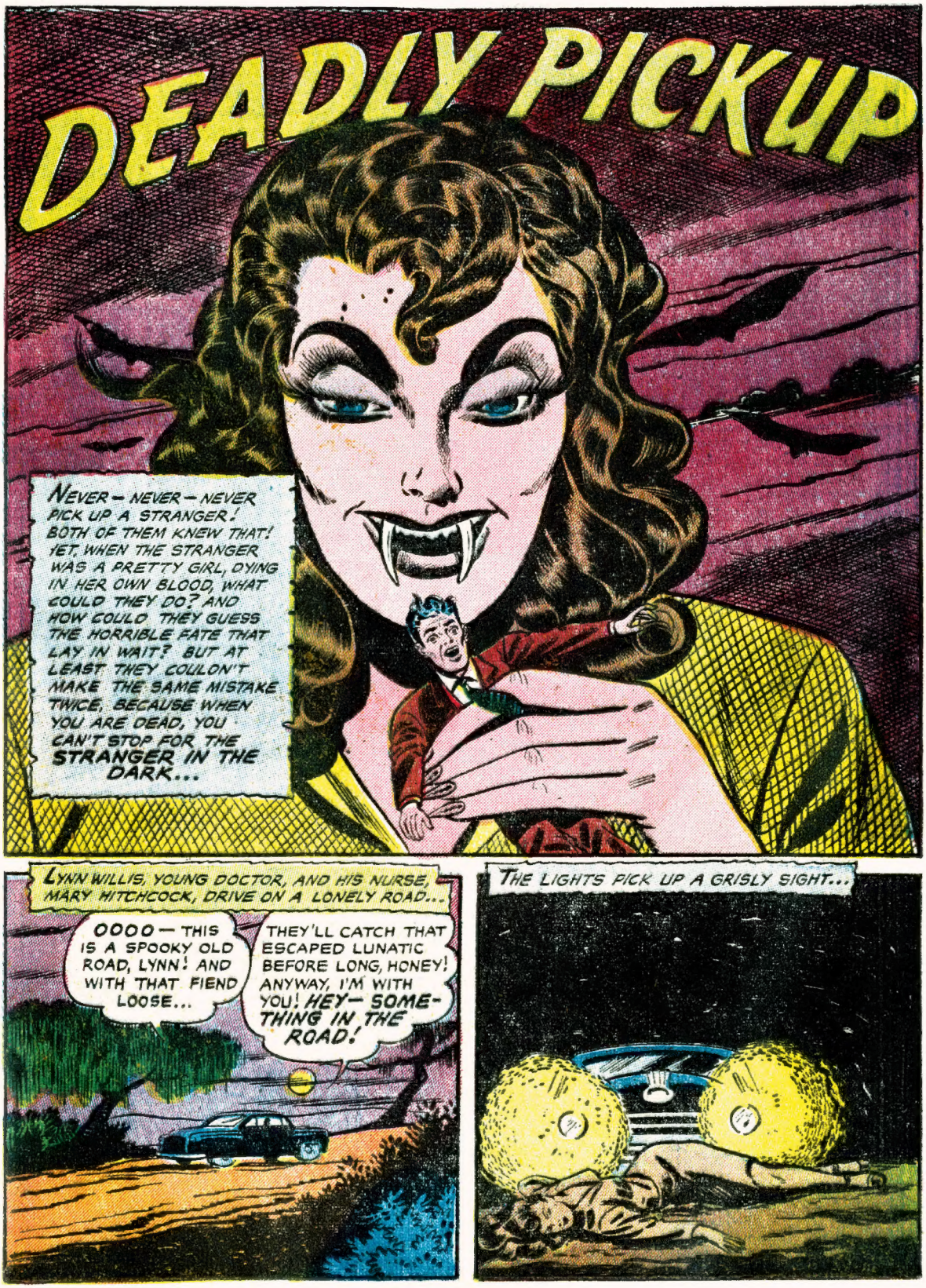
AND ONE MONTH AFTER THAT... AT THE VERY GATES OF THE UZRUK EMPIRE...



NONE COULD ESCAPE! THE PROVINCE OF UZRUK WAS DOOMED! AND THEIR MONARCH HAD BUT ONE OTHER CHOICE...


UGH-H... AT LEAST, I SHALL NOT DIE... IN DISGRACE, LARLA! KILL YOURSELF, MY CHILD! TO LIVE WILL BE WORSE THAN DEATH...
NO, FATHER! I SHALL LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR REVENGE! HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH!

SO THE HORDE SWEPT THROUGH ANOTHER LAND ONCE MORE... RUTHLESSLY, INVINCIBLY... UNTIL THEY FACED A SILENT GIRL ON A SOMBER THRONE...
AH.. MY PLANS HAVE BEEN PERFECT! YOU AWAIT ME IN BRIDAL SPLENDOR, MY DOVE! GOOD! VERY GOOD!
YOU WILL NOT SAY A WORD AGAINST ME, EH! I AM PLEASED! HERE IS MY KISS TO YOU, LARLA! MY LOVE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!
HAIL TO OUR KHAN!
BEHOLD MY NEW BRIDE! MY VALIANT SOLDIERS! RAISE YOUR CRIES OF VICTORY TO HER!
BUT SHE APPEARS SILENT, MIGHTY ONE! IT IS A BAD OMEN. MAKE HER SPEAK!
BAH! I SHALL DO BETTER THAN THAT! I SHALL KISS HER AGAIN SO THAT SHE MAY KNOW THE POWER OF MY LOVE! SPEAK NOW, OH BELOVED! THY MASTER COMMANDS THEE!
WHAT? YOU DARE DISOBEY? SPEAK I SAID.. OR I SHALL CUT OUT THY TONGUE WITH MY OWN DAGGER!
AIEEE!! THE BLUE FLIES!
BUZZZ-Z
YES, MIGHTY CONQUEROR! YOUR HORDE AND YOUR WEAPONS, AND YOUR CUNNING ARE POWERFUL INDEED! BUT YOU, HAVE LOST TO JUST A KISS.. A WOMAN'S KISS.. MORE POWERFUL THAN FORCE IN GIVING YOU LIFE ... OR DEATH!
THE END.


DEADLY PICKUP
NEVER – NEVER – NEVER PICK UP A STRANGER! BOTH OF THEM KNEW THAT! YET, WHEN THE STRANGER WAS A PRETTY GIRL, DYING IN HER OWN BLOOD, WHAT COULD THEY DO? AND HOW COULD THEY GUESS THE HORRIBLE FATE THAT LAY IN WAIT? BUT AT LEAST THEY COULDN'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE, BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE DEAD, YOU CAN'T STOP FOR THE STRANGER IN THE DARK...
LYNN WILLIS, YOUNG DOCTOR, AND HIS NURSE, MARY HITCHCOCK, DRIVE ON A LONELY ROAD...
OOOO – THIS IS A SPOOKY OLD ROAD, LYNN! AND WITH THAT FIEND LOOSE...
THEY'LL CATCH THAT ESCAPED LUNATIC BEFORE LONG, HONEY! ANYWAY, I'M WITH YOU! HEY– SOMETHING IN THE ROAD!
THE LIGHTS PICK UP A GRISLY SIGHT...

Voodoo #16, July-August 1954. Artist: Iger Shop. Publisher: Ajax-Farrell.

IT'S A GIRL! PROBABLY SOME HIT AND RUN DRIVER!
OR THE ESCAPED LUNATIC! MAYBE HE...
IS SHE ALIVE?
JUST BARELY! A TERRIBLE WOUND IN HER CHEST! SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
OOOOOO—
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE! WE'LL TAKE HER TO MY PLACE! IT'S CLOSER THAN THE HOSPITAL, AND TIME IS PRECIOUS!
THEN HURRY! I'LL DRIVE!
HOW IS SHE NOW? S-STILL ALIVE?
I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING, BUT HER HEART IS VERY WEAK! CAN'T YOU GO FASTER, BABY? DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE LAW!
DO YOU THINK SHE WAS ATTACKED BY THE — THE FIEND, LYNN?
THAT'S FOR THE POLICE! OUR JOB IS TO SAVE HER LIFE — AND IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE!
MINUTES LATER...
IF SHE LIVES, SHE'LL BE LUCKY! LUCKY THAT YOU FOUND HER, DARLING, AND THAT YOU LIVE SO CLOSE!
AND LUCKY THAT I DATE MY NURSE AFTER OFFICE HOURS, TOO! BETTER GET SOME WHOLE BLOOD NOW!
7

BLAST IT, MARY, WHERE ARE THE RUBBER GLOVES? I HAVEN'T A PAIR THAT'S STERILE!
YOU USED THE LAST PAIR THIS AFTERNOON! SHOULD BE SOME IN THE STORAGE ROOM!
GOOD GIRL! I'LL GET A PAIR AND BE RIGHT BACK! HOW DOES SHE LOOK?
I THINK HER COLOR IS BETTER, BUT HURRY!
THAT CHEST WOUND — VERY ODD! WONDER WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT? THAT FIEND — LUNATIC — NEVER ATTACKED ANYONE THAT WAY BEFORE! BUT MAYBE HE'S CHANGING HIS METHODS! AH, THE GLOVES...
GLOVES STERILE
MEANTIME, MARY HITCHCOCK REPLENISHES THE SUPPLY OF WHOLE BLOOD...
POOR THING! HER VEINS WERE ALMOST EMPTY! I'LL NEED AT LEAST ANOTHER BOTTLE...
AS SHE TURNS...
I'LL TAKE THAT!
NOW— EEEEEEEE—
WHOLE BLOOD
OH — NO — PLEASE! AAAAAHHHHHH —
GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S MARY SCREAMING! THE LUNATIC! MUST BE IN THE HOUSE!
GLOVES STERILE
HE BURSTS IN ON A TABLEAU OF HORROR...
HEAVENS! HE GOT MARY! CAME IN THE WINDOW, ATTACKED HER, AND LEFT! DIDN'T HARM THE OTHER GIRL! BUT MAYBE I CAN STILL SAVE MARY...
3

BUT MOMENTS LATER, WITH A HEAVY HEART, HE CALLS THE POLICE...
THIS IS DOCTOR WILLIS, 314 SUTHERLAND DRIVE! COME AT ONCE, PLEASE! THAT LUNATIC HAS JUST MURDERED MY NURSE! AND I HAVE ANOTHER VICTIM HERE!
THE FIEND? WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE, DOCTOR!
HOURS LATER...
YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE GIRL, OFFICER? I DARE NOT MOVE HER TO A HOSPITAL YET! MAYBE TOMORROW! BUT RIGHT NOW...
SURE, DOCTOR! AND I'M—SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE NURSE! BUT WE'LL GET THAT MONSTER FOR THIS! AND THERE'LL BE A GUARD AROUND THE HOUSE!
AS HE RENEWS HIS FIGHT TO SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE...
IRONIC! I LOSE MY GIRL TRYING TO SAVE ANOTHER ONE! IF ONLY WE HADN'T STOPPED—BUT I CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT! I'M A DOCTOR!
BUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY A STRANGE THING HAPPENS...
HUH! SHE—SHE'S TRYING TO GET UP! BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE EVER RECOVERED THIS QUICKLY FROM SUCH A TERRIBLE WOUND!
OHHH—I—WHO—WHERE AM I? W-WHO ARE YOU?
THIS PLACE! SO YOU MUST BE A D-DOCTOR? YOU FOUND ME ON THE ROAD?
YES! BUT YOU MUSTN'T TALK, PLEASE! YOU'RE TERRIBLY HURT, LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
BLOOD? OH, YES, I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW! H-HE TOOK ME TO THAT LONELY PLACE! HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
WHAT? YOU CAN REMEMBER ALREADY? YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS TO YOU? THEN MAYBE YOU CAN HELP THE POLICE! I'LL CALL THEM, AND...
4

BUT AS HE STARTS FOR THE DOOR...
NO, PLEASE! NOT THE POLICE! NOT YET! I—I'M SO THIRSTY!
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE POLICE ARE HERE NOW, JUST OUTSIDE! AND, REALLY, YOU MUST NOT EXERT YOURSELF! YOUR WOUND...
PLEASE! LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED FIRST! BEFORE I PASS OUT AGAIN!
WELL—THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA! BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE TALKING AT ALL!
THIS MAN HATED ME! HE TOOK ME TO THAT PLACE! HE HAD A SHARP STICK WITH HIM!
A SHARP STICK! YOU MEAN HE STABBED YOU WITH IT? WHAT MAN?
MY HUSBAND! HE SHOVED THE SHARP STICK AT MY HEART!
GOOD HEAVENS! BUT WAIT— THE ESCAPED LUNATIC ISN'T MARRIED!
LUNATIC? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! ALL I KNOW IS THAT MY HUSBAND FOUND OUT ABOUT ME!
FOUND OUT— OH, I SEE! NOW JUST YOU TAKE IT EASY, MY DEAR, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING!
SHE'S RAVING! TEMPORARILY OUT OF HER MIND! HAVE TO HUMOR HER!
BUT HE MISSED MY HEART, THE FOOL! NEXT THING I REMEMBER WAS WAKING UP HERE! THERE WAS A GIRL, AND BLOOD, AND I WAS SO TERRIBLY THIRSTY...
A GIRL! MARY! AND YOU WERE THIRSTY! OH— NO!
YES! I'M A VAMPIRE!
YAAAAAAAA—
The End

WELCOME, GHOUL LOVERS! YOUR OLD FIEND, THE CORPSE, BRINGS YOU ANOTHER SICKENING SAGA TO DELIGHT YOUR TERRORIFIC APPETITES! THIS ONE SHOULD KEEP YOU DANGLING WITH JOY: A NAUSEATING NARRATIVE I CALL...
STRING 'EM UP!
Hy Fleishman
OUR STORY OPENS IN A SMALL PARK IN BERLIN, GERMANY, IN THE EARLY 30'S BEFORE THE RISE OF HITLER. PLAYING TO A LAUGHING APPRECIATIVE CROWD IS FRITZ KURTZ, PUPPETEER...
...AND SO WE BID YOU GOOD NIGHT!
BRAVO!
BRAVO, HERR KURTZ!
THE 55-YEAR-OLD CRAFTSMAN COMES FROM BEHIND THE STAGE TO ACCEPT THE CROWD'S APPLAUSE... FRITZ KURTZ HAS A HEART AS BIG AS HIMSELF. CHILDREN AND ADULTS ADORE HIM AND HE RETURNS THEIR AFFECTION...
THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS! THANK YOU!
NO, NO, FRITZ, IT IS WE WHO THANK YOU!

Mysterious Adventures #18, February 1954. Artist: Hy Fleishman. Publisher: Story Comics.

THE CROWD DEPARTS AND THE AGING PUPPETEER GATHERS HIS PRECIOUS EQUIPMENT TOGETHER. TO FRITZ HIS PUPPETS ARE LIKE CHILDREN. HE HAS CARVED EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY, MADE THEIR CLOTHES AND EVEN GIVEN THEM NAMES...
AH, IT WAS A GOOD NIGHT, EH, LITTLE JOCKO?
FRITZ IS A LONELY MAN... HE HAS NO WIFE, NO FAMILY. THE PUPPETS ARE HIS ONLY COMPANIONS...
SO, MY SWEET EILEEN, YOUR NOSE NEEDS A LITTLE PAINT? TOMORROW OLD FRITZ WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
A SHORT TIME LATER THE PUPPETEER MAKES HIS WAY ALONG THE EMPTY BERLIN STREETS TOWARD HIS DRAB ROOM...
I MUST SEE ABOUT NEW COSTUMES FOR... T-THAT GIRL! SHE'S GOING TO JUMP!
WAIT! YOUNG WOMAN, WAIT/DON'T DO THAT!
FRITZ DROPS HIS SUITCASE AND RUNS TO WHERE THE GIRL STANDS... BUT SHE DOES NOT WISH HIS HELP. INSTEAD, SHE TRYS TO FIGHT HIM OFF...
NO! LET ME GO! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! I WANT TO DIE!
BUT THIS IS WRONG! ANYONE SO PRETTY SHOULD WISH TO LIVE FOREVER!
FRITZ SPEAKS CALMLY AND GENTLY TO HER... AND THEN LEADS HER TO HIS ROOM WHERE HE MAKES COFFEE...
IT IS A HUMBLE ROOM AND YET IT IS HOME!
YOU'RE LUCKY! I HAVE NO HOME... I LIVE IN ALLEYS, SLEEP IN DOORWAYS!
FRITZ LISTENS AS SHE POURS OUT HER TALE OF WOE ...NO MONEY, NO FAMILY, NO FUTURE! HER NAME IS FRIEDA HAAS, SHE IS 26...
NOW TELL ME WHY I SHOULD WANT TO LIVE FOREVER! WHAT FOR? FOR THIS KIND OF LIFE?
BUT YOU MUST NOT DESPAIR! YOU ARE BUT A BABY! LIFE WILL CHANGE FOR YOU!
HE INSISTS THAT FRIEDA STAY WITH HIM UNTIL SHE CAN FIND WORK... AND AS HE GOES TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR FRITZ KURTZ IS A HAPPY MAN! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS HE DOES NOT FEEL LONELY...
SLEEP WELL, LITTLE FRIEDA!
2

THE DAYS PASS INTO WEEKS AND WITH EACH DAY FRITZ GROWS TO LOVE HIS LITTLE FRIEDA MORE... HUMBLY, HIS VOICE SHAKING WITH EMOTION, HE ASKS HER TO MARRY HIM...

I-I KNOW I AM AN OLD MAN, FRIEDA... BUT YOU *NEED* ME! LET ME TAKE *CARE* OF YOU! ALLOW ME TO *LOVE* YOU!

YES, FRITZ, I'LL MARRY YOU! YOU ARE A *KIND* MAN ...THAT IS ENOUGH FOR ME!

AND SO THEY ARE MARRIED AND FOR A YEAR FRITZ MOVES ON WINGS OF ECSTASY ... HE WORKS LONG AND HARD AND WITH FRIEDA'S HELP, THE PUPPET SHOW EARNS GOOD MONEY!

SEE, MY JOCKO, FRITZ HAS BROUGHT YOU A *MOTHER*... AND YOUR MOTHER HAS BROUGHT US *SUCCESS!*

FRITZ, YOU SWEET OLD *IDIOT!* IMAGINE BEING A MOTHER TO *PUPPETS!*

AS THE SHOW CONTINUES TO DO A FLOURISHING BUSINESS FRITZ SPENDS EVERY SPARE DIME ON FRIEDA... HE TAKES HER TO EXPENSIVE CAFES, BUYS HER EXTRAVAGANT CLOTHES...

OH FRITZ, IT'S *BEAUTIFUL!*

NOTHING IS BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH FOR YOU!

BUT THEIR GOOD FORTUNE DOES NOT LAST... THREE WEEKS LATER AS FRITZ IS MANIPULATING THE STRINGS DURING A LATE SHOW...

FRITZ, YOU'RE NOT *MOVING* JOCKO'S LEG! HE... *FRITZ, WHAT'S WRONG?*

M-MY HEART... FREIDA, *MY HEART...*

A DOCTOR IS SUMMONED AND WHEN FRITZ HAS BEEN PUT TO BED, FRIEDA HEARS THE DREADED NEWS...

H-HE CAN *NEVER* WORK AGAIN!

THAT'S RIGHT, MRS. KURTZ! *NEVER!* OVER-WORK IS WHAT CAUSED HIS CONDITION! THE THE *SLIGHTEST* STRAIN OR SHOCK COULD *KILL* HIM!

AFTER THE DOCTOR LEAVES FRITZ CALLS FRIEDA TO HIM AND GENTLY REASSURES HER...

DO NOT *WORRY*, MY LITTLE ONE. WE WILL HIRE A *PUPPETEER* TO WORK FOR US! TOGETHER YOU AND HE WILL RUN THE SHOW AND I SHALL KEEP THE PUPPETS IN REPAIR! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

AND SO IT IS THAT HANS LERNER, NOVICE PUPPETEER, ENTERS THE LIVES OF FRITZ AND FRIEDA ... HANS IS A BIG MAN, AN ATTRACTIVE MAN, AND AS THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE, HIS EYES ROVE APPRECIATIVELY OVER FREIDA...

...AND YOU CAN COME TO WORK *IMMEDIATELY?*

YES, MRS. KURTZ, FOR *YOU* I CAN COME *IMMEDIATELY!*

AND YOU MUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY PUPPETS! THEY ARE LIKE CHILDREN TO ME!
DO NOT FEAR, HERR KURTZ, I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU!
HAN'S INTEREST IN THE VOLUPTUOUS FRIEDA IS BY NO MEANS ONE-SIDED... THAT NIGHT AS THEY PREPARE TO WORK, FRIEDA MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SHE FINDS THE TALL MUSCULAR MAN MUCH TO HER LIKING...
PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE DINNER TOGETHER AFTER THE SHOW, HANS? THERE ARE THINGS WE SHOULD DISCUSS!
YES... MANY THINGS!
AND SO ON THEIR FIRST NIGHT AS PARTNERS, HANS AND FRIEDA EXCHANGE THEIR FIRST KISS...
THE MINUTE I LAID EYES ON YOU I KNEW YOU WERE MY KIND, BABY!
FORGOTTEN IN AN INSTANT IS FRITZ AND HIS GREAT LOVE... FRIEDA IS TOO DEEPLY ATTRACTED TO HANS TO REMEMBER ANYTHING BUT HER OWN SELFISH PLEASURES...
I KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE IN LOVE WITH THE OLD FOOL!
IN LOVE WITH HIM? UGH! HE MAKES ME SICK!
THE WEEKS PASS QUICKLY AND OLD FRITZ FINDS HIMSELF LEFT ALONE MORE AND MORE...
AH, SO YOU'RE LONESOME TOO, EILEEN? YES, IT IS LONELY WITHOUT FRIEDA TO TAKE CARE OF US!
BUT FRIEDA IS INTERESTED IN NO ONE BUT FRIEDA...AND HANS!
QUICK, DARLING KISS ME BEFORE THE CROWD GETS HERE! OH, HANS, I MISS YOU SO AT NIGHT WHEN I HAVE TO GO TO HIM!
HIM... HIM! I'M TIRED OF HIM, STUPID OLD MAN AND HIS SILLY PUPPETS! I WISH HE WERE DEAD!
AND SUDDENLY BOTH HANS AND FRIEDA ARE QUIET...THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT, EACH INTENT ON BUT ONE THOUGHT...
HANS, WE... WE COULD...
YES, WE COULD... AND WILL! LISTEN TO ME, FRIEDA... I THINK I HAVE A PLAN!

AND SO NOT ONLY DOES FRIEDA CHEAT ON FRITZ, BUT NOW SHE HELPS PLAN HIS DEATH. . . HIS *MURDER*...

...AND REMEMBER WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID: THE *SLIGHTEST* SHOCK COULD *KILL* HIM! WELL, *WE'RE* GOING TO GIVE HIM A SHOCK...AND IT *WON'T* BE SLIGHT! WE'RE GOING TO TELL HIM THE *TRUTH!*

HANS AND FRIEDA LAY THEIR PLAN CAREFULLY AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN FRITZ AWAKENS FROM HIS AFTERNOON NAP. . .

(YAWN) FRIEDA HONEY, WHERE... *FRIEDA! HANS!* M-MY *GOD!* I--I MUST STILL BE FAST ASLEEP.. STILL *DREAMING!*

NO, *STUPID* YOU'RE *NOT* DREAMING! THIS IS *REAL!* YOU'VE BEEN PLAYED FOR A *SUCKER! FRIEDA DOESN'T LOVE YOU...SHE NEVER LOVED YOU!*

D-DON'T LET HIM TALK LIKE THAT, FRIEDA! HE--HE'S LYING! TELL ME HE'S LYING!

HE'S *NOT* LYING! I'VE *NEVER* LOVED YOU...YOU WERE A *MEAL TICKET,* THAT'S ALL! *A FAT REPULSIVE OLD MEAL TICKET!*

TEARS FILL THE OLD MAN'S EYES AND A SEARING PAIN SHOOTS ACROSS HIS CHEST...FRIEDA, HIS BELOVED FRIEDA HATES HIM...DESPISES HIM...THE PAIN GROWS STRONGER, MORE INTENSE... HIS CHEST FEELS LIKE IT'S CAUGHT IN A VISE...

F-FRIEDA, (GASP) *M-MY HEART... YOU'RE KILLING ME!*

GOOD! THAT'S *FINE,* FRITZ! AND JUST FOR A *FINAL* TOUCH, WATCH ME *KISS* YOUR WIFE!

FRITZ FALLS BACKWARD GASPING...HE'S DYING...

AND *THIS* IS WHAT I THINK OF YOUR *IDIOTIC* PUPPETS! WATCH ME, FRITZ, *WATCH WHILE I BREAK IT INTO A THOUSAND PIECES!*

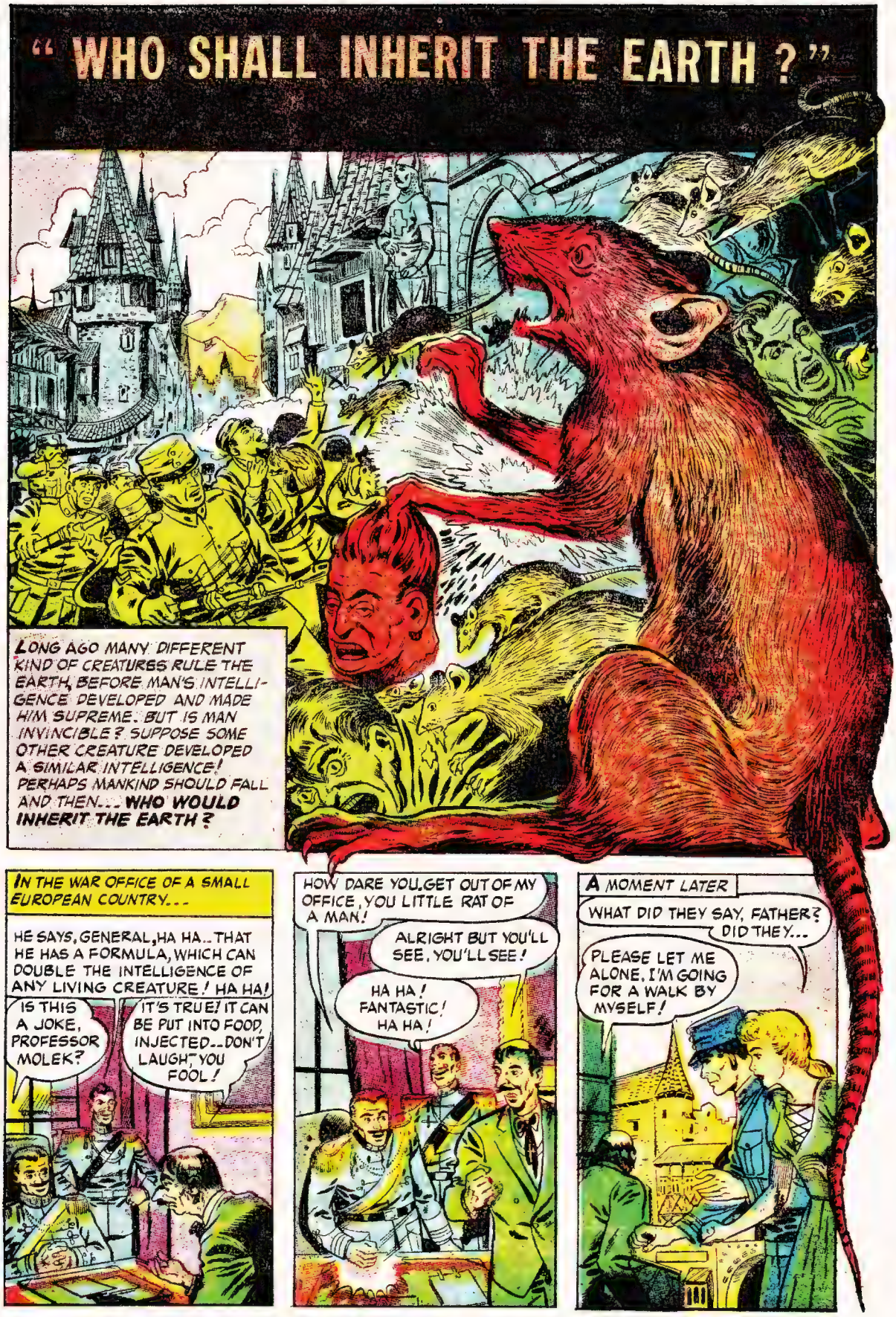
NO (GASP) *NO...*

THE LAST THING FRITZ SEES BEFORE HE DIES IS JOCKO HIS FAVORITE PUPPET, SMASHING AGAINST THE FLOOR. . . AS DEATH BRINGS THE NIGHT-MARE TO A CLOSE HE HEARS FRIEDA LAUGHING, SNEERING AT HIM.

DIE, FRITZ! DIE!

UGHHH... (GASP) AGHRRRR...

CRASH


"WHO SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH?"
LONG AGO MANY DIFFERENT KIND OF CREATURES RULE THE EARTH, BEFORE MAN'S INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPED AND MADE HIM SUPREME. BUT IS MAN INVINCIBLE? SUPPOSE SOME OTHER CREATURE DEVELOPED A SIMILAR INTELLIGENCE! PERHAPS MANKIND SHOULD FALL AND THEN... WHO WOULD INHERIT THE EARTH?
IN THE WAR OFFICE OF A SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRY...
HE SAYS, GENERAL, HA HA.. THAT HE HAS A FORMULA, WHICH CAN DOUBLE THE INTELLIGENCE OF ANY LIVING CREATURE! HA HA!
IS THIS A JOKE, PROFESSOR MOLEK?
IT'S TRUE! IT CAN BE PUT INTO FOOD, INJECTED.. DON'T LAUGH, YOU FOOL!
HOW DARE YOU, GET OUT OF MY OFFICE, YOU LITTLE RAT OF A MAN!
ALRIGHT BUT YOU'LL SEE, YOU'LL SEE!
HA HA! FANTASTIC! HA HA!
A MOMENT LATER
WHAT DID THEY SAY, FATHER? DID THEY...
PLEASE LET ME ALONE, I'M GOING FOR A WALK BY MYSELF!

Tales of Horror #4, January 1953. Artist: Myron Fass. Publisher: Toby Press.

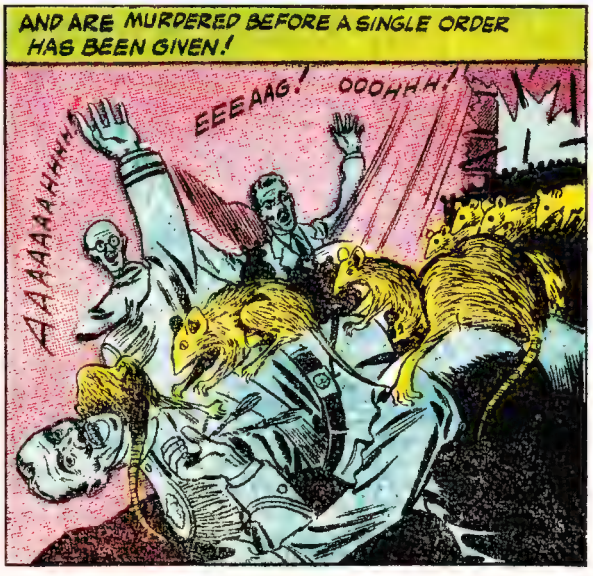
POOR FATHER, THEY MUST HAVE LAUGHED AT HIM AGAIN!
DON'T WORRY ANNA DARLING. HE'LL BE ALRIGHT WHEN HE GETS OVER FEELING ANGRY.
BUT AS PROFESSOR MOLEK STUMBLE ALONG IN A BLIND RAGE...
IDIOTS! MORONS! I'LL SHOW THEM SOME-DAY!
IF ONLY I HAD SOMETHING TO EXPERIMENT ON, I'D AAAAAAH!
THE PROFESSOR IS UNHURT BUT...
UGH! I MUST BE IN THE SEWERS. I'LL... GOOD HEAVENS!
RATS, THOUSANDS OF THEM! AND YET THEY SEEM FRIENDLY ENOUGH. HA! WHY SHOULDN'T THEY? DON'T I LOOK LIKE THEM? INTELLIGENT, TOO, AND...
INTELLIGENT! OF COURSE, ONE OF THE MOST INTELLIGENT SPECIES ON EARTH! AND THEY BREED LIKE RABBITS... PERFECT TO TEST MY FORMULA!
HA! HA! I'LL BE BACK, MY FRIENDS, WITH PLENTY OF VERY SPECIAL FOOD FOR YOU! AND IN A LITTLE WHILE WE'LL SHOW THOSE STUPID HUMANS A THING OR TWO... HA! HA! HA!

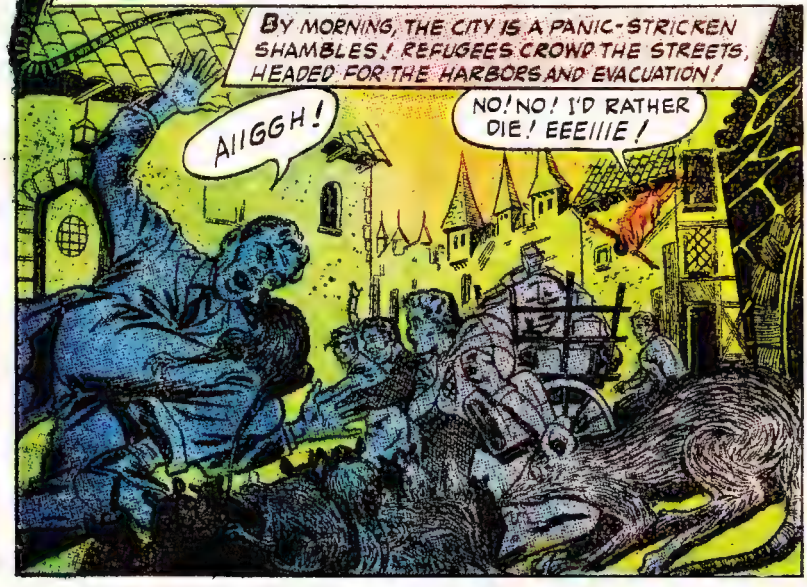
ONE YEAR LATER...
FATHER, I WANT YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW! KURT AND I ARE GETTING MARRIED!
HA! DON'T BOTHER ME WITH SUCH TRIFLES! I HAVE GREAT THINGS TO DO TODAY!
OH, KURT, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO FATHER? HE'S BEEN SO STRANGE THE PAST YEAR!
I KNOW. I WISH I COULD FIND OUT WHAT HE'S DOING!
YOUR BROTHERS ALREADY RULE PARTS OF THE EARTH THAT ONCE WAS MAN'S. WHO INHABITS ANCIENT BABYLON? YOU, THE RATS! WHO OWNS THE CRUMBLED CITIES OF EGYPT? YOU! AND SOON YOU WILL RULE ALL THE EARTH!
IF THEY ONLY KNEW! TEN MINUTES LATER, MOLEK STANDS IN THE CAVERNOUS SEWER AND...
MY FRIENDS. TODAY IS THE DAY! REMEMBER WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU...
DON'T FORGET THE PLAN. WE DISPOSE OF THE POLICE FIRST AND THE REST WILL BE HELPLESS! NOW GO AND CONQUER THE EARTH!
EEK!
EEEEEK!
THAT NIGHT THE RATS PUT MOLEK'S CUNNING STRATEGY TO WORK!
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! IT'S HANS AND HE'S COVERED WITH...
HELP! THE RATS— THEY'RE KILLING ME!

EVERY POLICEMAN IN THE STREETS IS ATTACKED!
AAAAAGGHHH!

AND FINALLY THE RATS ATTACK AND DESTROY THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS ITSELF!
RATS! HUNDREDS OF THEM!
RUN FOR YOU LIFE!
IT MUST BE A NIGHTMARE IT CAN'T BE...AAGGHH!!

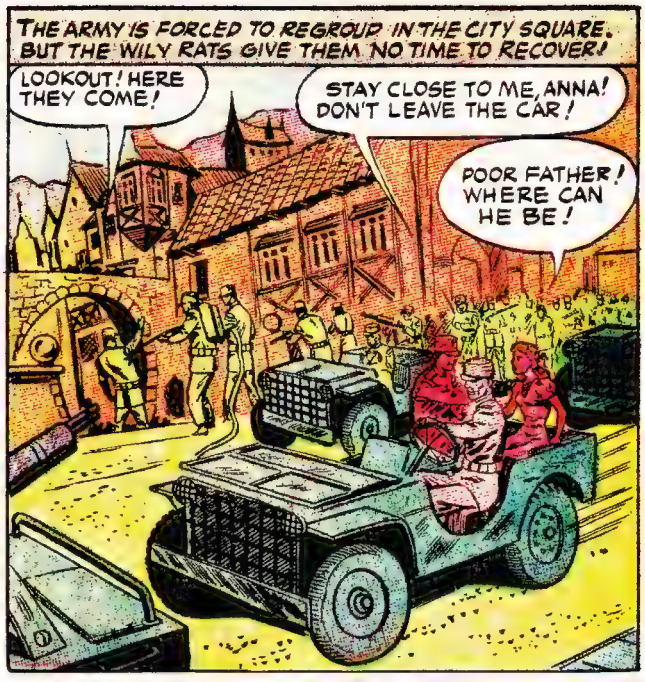
THE CITY LEADERS CALL A COUNCIL OF WAR...
I'VE ALREADY SENT FOR THE ARMY. IN A FEW MINUTES THEY'LL BE...!
LOOK!

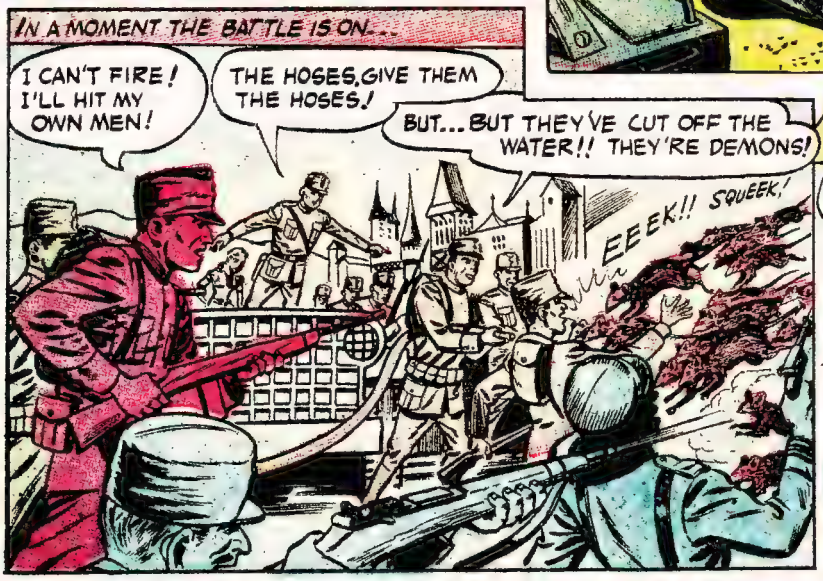

AND ARE MURDERED BEFORE A SINGLE ORDER HAS BEEN GIVEN!
AAAAAAHHH!
EEEAAG!
OOOHHH!


BY MORNING, THE CITY IS A PANIC-STRICKEN SHAMBLES! REFUGEES CROWD THE STREETS, HEADED FOR THE HARBORS AND EVACUATION!
AIIGGH!
NO! NO! I'D RATHER DIE! EEEIIIE!

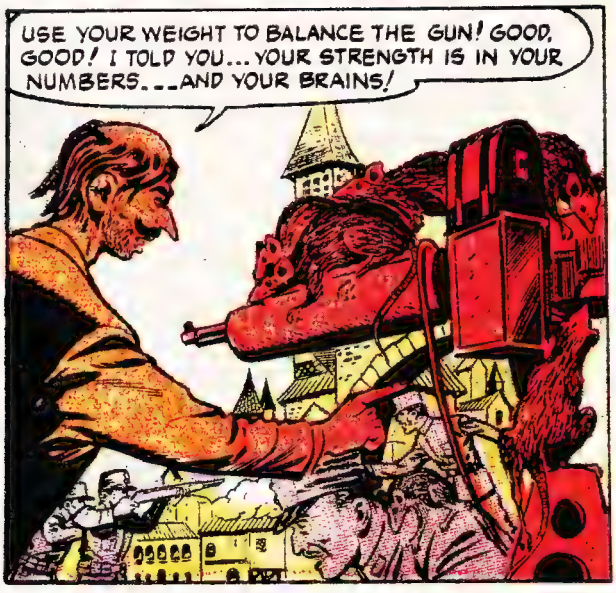
AT LAST THE ARMY ARRIVES TO FIND THE CITY STRANGELY QUIET, DESERTED. BUT....
WELL, WHERE ARE THE BLASTED RATS? JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE AT THEM WITH THIS FLAME-THROWER, I'LL...

OHHH! GET THEM OFF ME!..
A SURRISE ATTACK! THE FILTHY THINGS MUST BE HUMAN!
VOOOM!
CRACK


THE ARMY IS FORCED TO REGROUP IN THE CITY SQUARE. BUT THE WILY RATS GIVE THEM NO TIME TO RECOVER!
LOOKOUT! HERE THEY COME!
STAY CLOSE TO ME, ANNA! DON'T LEAVE THE CAR!
POOR FATHER! WHERE CAN HE BE!

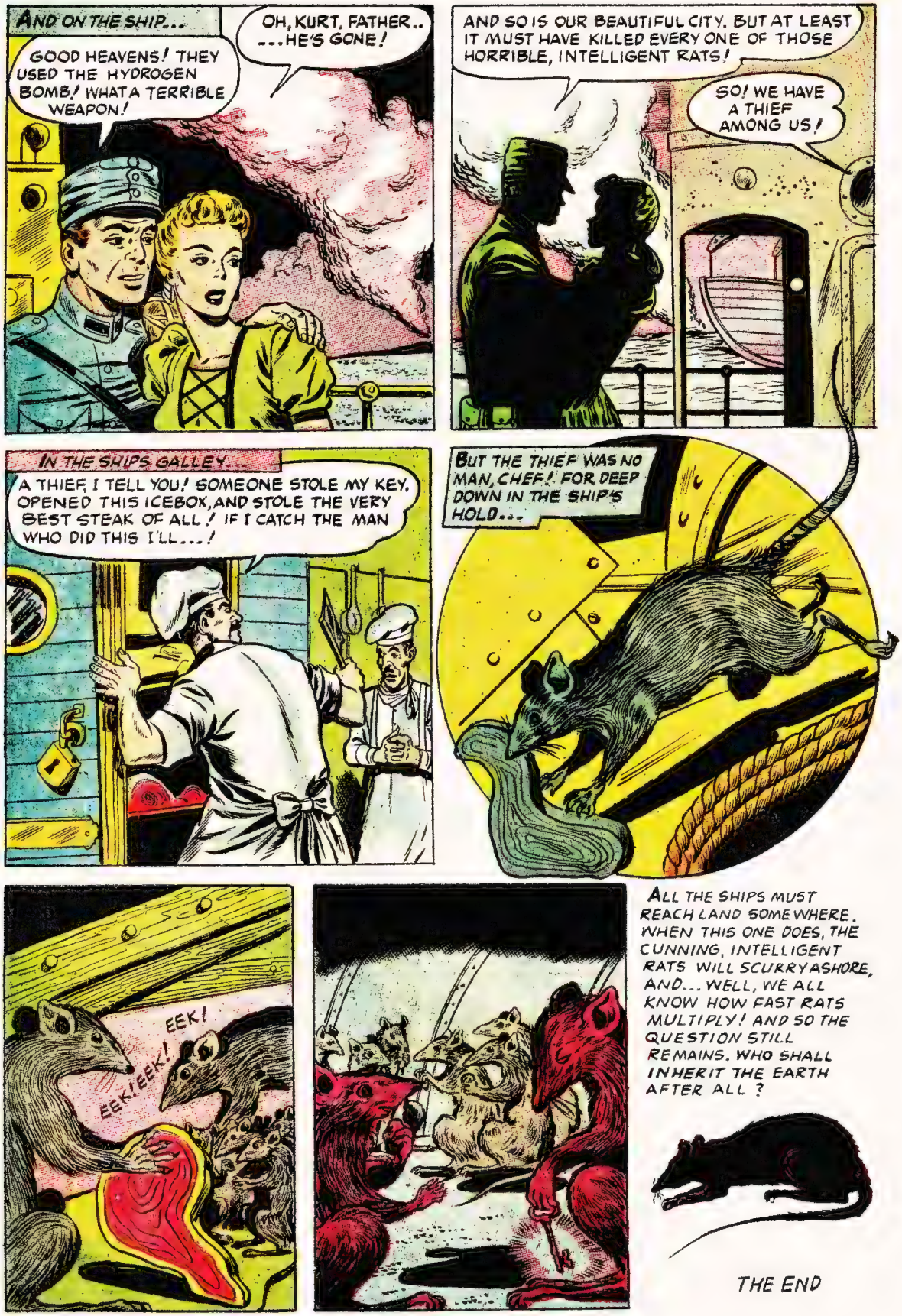

IN A MOMENT THE BATTLE IS ON...
I CAN'T FIRE! I'LL HIT MY OWN MEN!
THE HOSES, GIVE THEM THE HOSES!
BUT... BUT THEY'VE CUT OFF THE WATER!! THEY'RE DEMONS!
EEEK!! SQUEEK!

AND SUDDENLY, A WILD, SAVAGE APPEARS AMONG THE RATS.
THE MACHINE GUN! CAPTURE THE GUN! THAT'S IT, MY BEAUTIES!


USE YOUR WEIGHT TO BALANCE THE GUN! GOOD, GOOD! I TOLD YOU... YOUR STRENGTH IS IN YOUR NUMBERS...AND YOUR BRAINS!

AND IN A MOMENT...
THE KNOW HOW TO FIRE THE GUNS! THEY KNOW HOW! WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM!
RAT-TAT-TAT

THE RATS ARE ASSURED OF A BLOODY, GRUESOME VICTORY!
THEY'RE ON THE RUN, MY BEAUTIES! PURSUE THEM! KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
THERE'S FATHER, I MUST SAVE HIM!
NO, ANNA DON'T...!
FATHER! FATHER!
THE RATS HAVE SPOTTED HER! DRIVER, GET OVER THERE. QUICKLY!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOUR FATHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WHOLE THING!
FATHER! OH, NO!
ZOOM
WE HAVE TIME TO MAKE THE LAST SHIP OUT OF THE HARBOR! HURRY!
FIGHTING EVERY INCH OF THE WAY, THE SOLDIERS REACHED THE LAST REMAINING SHIP...
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE FATHER!
WE MUST, COME ON!
CAST OFF! THEY'RE TRYING TO BOARD THE SHIP!


AND ON THE SHIP...
OH, KURT, FATHER.. ...HE'S GONE!
GOOD HEAVENS! THEY USED THE HYDROGEN BOMB! WHAT A TERRIBLE WEAPON!
AND SO IS OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY. BUT AT LEAST IT MUST HAVE KILLED EVERY ONE OF THOSE HORRIBLE, INTELLIGENT RATS!
SO! WE HAVE A THIEF AMONG US!
IN THE SHIPS GALLEY...
A THIEF, I TELL YOU! SOMEONE STOLE MY KEY, OPENED THIS ICEBOX, AND STOLE THE VERY BEST STEAK OF ALL! IF I CATCH THE MAN WHO DID THIS I'LL...!
BUT THE THIEF WAS NO MAN, CHEF! FOR DEEP DOWN IN THE SHIP'S HOLD...
EEK!
EEK! EEK!
ALL THE SHIPS MUST REACH LAND SOMEWHERE. WHEN THIS ONE DOES, THE CUNNING, INTELLIGENT RATS WILL SCURRY ASHORE, AND... WELL, WE ALL KNOW HOW FAST RATS MULTIPLY! AND SO THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS. WHO SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH AFTER ALL ?
THE END

IT ALL STARTED OUT AS A HILARIOUS PRANK... THIS COLLEGE FRATERNITY INITIATION STAGED BY REX CHANDLER, THE MOST IRREPRESSIBLE PRACTICAL JOKER ON THE CAMPUS. DESIGNED TO TEST THE COURAGE OF THREE UNDERCLASSMEN, THIS UNIQUE HAZING CAME CLOSE TO MAKING EVERYONE...

DIE LAUGHING!

G-GOOD GOD! DO..DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

I-I'M CLEARING OUT! THIS JOKE OF CHANDLER'S IS TOO GRISLY FOR MY TASTE!

THE INITIATION WAS PROVING AN IMMENSE SUCCESS... AT LEAST TO REX CHANDLER'S WAY OF THINKING. A LITTLE ROUGH ON THE PLEDGES, PERHAPS, BUT THE SORT OF THING REX DELIGHTED IN...

AND NOW, FOLKS, THE GREATEST PITCHING ARM IN OUR COLLEGE'S HISTORY WILL DEMONSTRATE THE PROPER METHOD FOR THROWING A CUSTARD PIE!

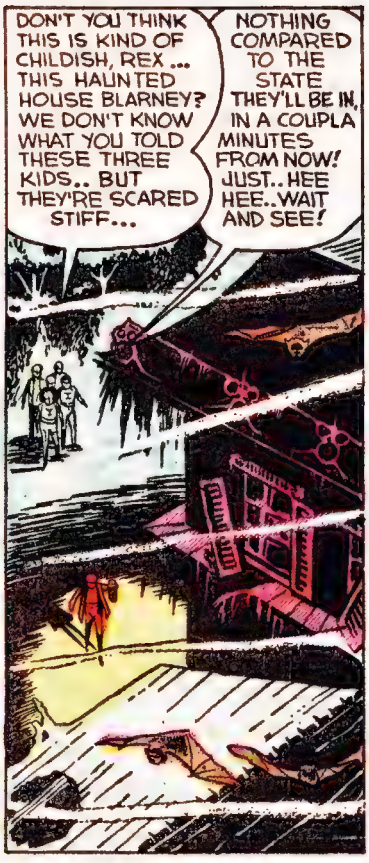
THREE LUSTY CHEERS FOR REX CHANDLER! THAT WAS A BETTER CURVE THAN THE ONE I THREW TO RETIRE THE SIDE IN THE HOTCHKISS GAME! THIS ONE WAS A HIT AS WELL AS A STRIKEOUT!

SPLAT!

The Thing #13, April 1954. Artist: Steve Ditko. Publisher: Charlton.

DON'T YOU THINK WE'VE HAD ENOUGH FUN WITH THESE GUYS, REX? LET'S CALL OFF THE REST OF THE HAZING AND SWEAR 'EM IN AS MEMBERS OF DELTA GAMMA...
NOT ON YOUR LIFE! I'M IN CHARGE OF THE INITIATION ..AND I'VE GOT THE BIGGEST GAG UP MY SLEEVE YET!
B-BUT YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY ROUGH ON THESE...
C'MON, YOU SOB-SISTERS... CLEAR OUT! I GOTTA BRIEF THE WOULD-BE DELTA GAMMAS ON THE LAST STEP.. IT'LL BE THE BEST EVER! YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE!
YOU THREE PLEDGES HAVE PROVEN YOUR LOYALTY AND INTELLIGENCE... BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE OF YOUR COURAGE! AND SO TONIGHT, WE'LL TEST THAT! OVER AT THE HAWKINS HOUSE.. THE ONE FOLKS SAY IS HAUNTED! I'VE MADE A LOT OF PREPARATIONS... HEH HEH.. THAT'LL SLAY YOU!
FOR THE NEXT HOUR, REX INSTRUCTED THE THREE UNDERCLASSMEN IN THE LAST STAGE OF THEIR INITIATION. THEN, THAT SAME NIGHT...
THERE SHE IS, BOYS... A REAL HUMDINGER! I KNOW YOU ALL SNEER AT THE IDEA OF A HOUSE ACTUALLY BEING HAUNTED, BUT THIS ONE.. HEH HEH... THERE'S SOMEthing ABOUT IT TO TURN YOUR BLOOD COLD!
L-LOOK, CHANDLER... YOU'RE GOING ABOUT THIS thing WITH ALMOST SADISTIC JOY! THE OTHER BOYS AND I ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PLEDGES...
I'M IN CHARGE, KELSEY... IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY I'M RUNNING THINGS YOU CAN RESIGN FROM DELTA GAMMA, SEE?
I PUT A LOT OF TIME AND THOUGHT INTO THIS INITIATION..ESPECIALLY THIS LAST PART! IT'LL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL WHETHER OUR NEWEST MEMBERS HAVE GUTS! ARKWRIGHT... GRAB THIS LANTERN AND GET GOING!
Y-YES SIR...

WAVE THAT LANTERN AT US FROM THE FIRST FLOOR LANDING.. THE SECOND FLOOR.. AND THE ATTIC WINDOW! THEN JUST COOL YOUR HEELS 'TIL I COME UPSTAIRS TO GET YOU! OKAY... LET'S START THE BALL ROLLING!


DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS KIND OF CHILDISH, REX... THIS HAUNTED HOUSE BLARNEY? WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU TOLD THESE THREE KIDS.. BUT THEY'RE SCARED STIFF...
NOTHING COMPARED TO THE STATE THEY'LL BE IN, IN A COUPLA MINUTES FROM NOW! JUST.. HEE HEE.. WAIT AND SEE!

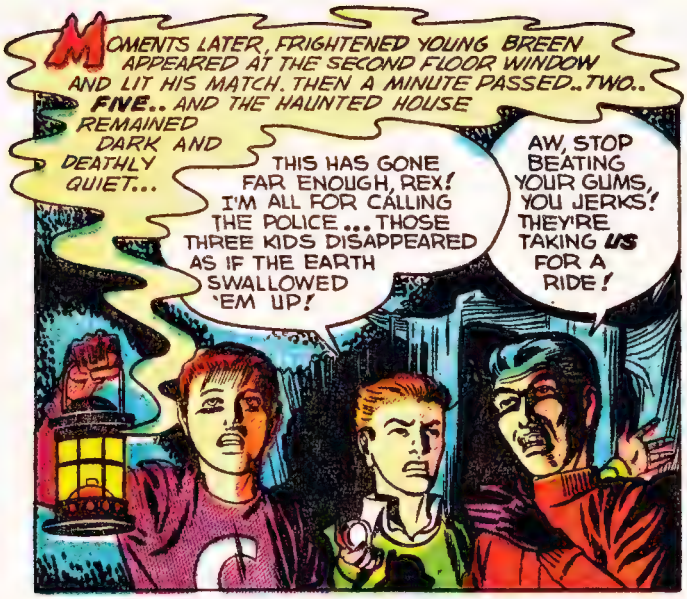
I SPENT HOURS FIXING UP THIS JOINT AND RIGGING UP A MESS OF SURPRISES FOR THE BOYS! THAT ATTIC... HEH HEH.. IT'LL KILL 'EM!
LIGHT'S ON IN THE HOUSE... IT'S ARKWRIGHT WAVING HIS LANTERN FROM THE FIRST FLOOR LANDING! G-GOOD GOSH.. HE LOOKS SCARED TO DEATH!

THERE HE IS AGAIN.. AT THE SECOND FLOOR LANDING! L-LOOK AT HIS FACE... HE'S SHAKING AS IF HE'S SEEN A GHOST! I.. I HOPE THIS STUNT DOESN'T BACK-FIRE, CHANDLER.. WE'RE HOLDING YOU RESPONSIBLE!

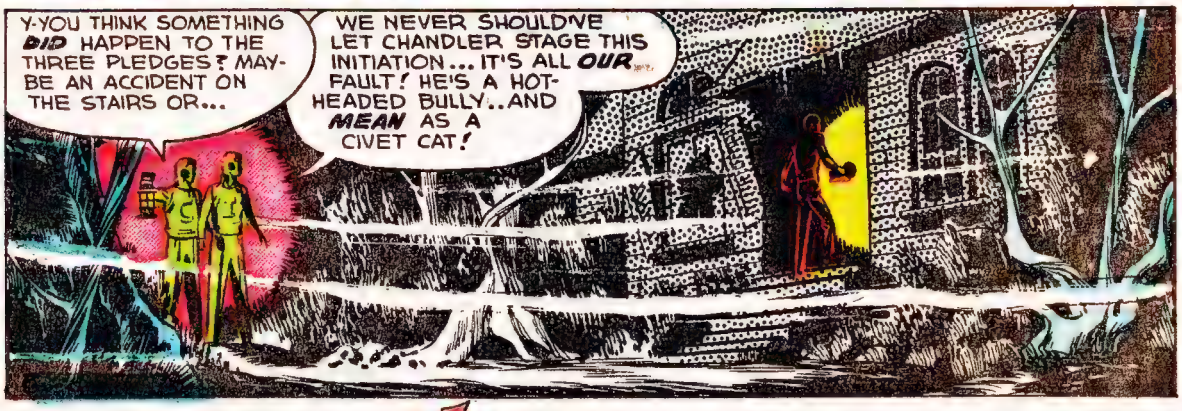
YOU GUYS ARE TOO WISHY-WASHY FOR MY TASTE... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING MEN INTO DELTA GAMMA, NOT SCHOOL-BOYS! A LITTLE FRIGHT ISN'T GONNA HURT 'EM AND...
IT'S THREE MINUTES SINCE WE LAST SAW ARKWRIGHT... AND IT DOESN'T TAKE THAT LONG TO GO FROM THE SECOND FLOOR TO THE ATTIC!

ARKWRIGHT'S DECIDED TO GET CUTE, HAS HE? THINKS HE'LL SCARE ME A BIT, EH? PROB'LY SITTING IN THE ATTIC AND WAITING TO YELL BOO WHEN I COME AFTER HIM! HMM... WE'LL JUST CHANGE THE SCHEDULE A BIT! CHAVEZ... COME ARUNNING!

SUPPOSE WE SPIKE ARKWRIGHT'S LITTLE SCHEME AND HAVE YOU GO UP NEXT, CHAVEZ! THIS WAY.. IF ARKY'S GOT SOME PLAN UP HIS SLEEVE, HE'LL BE SPRINGING IT ON YOU! WHO KNOWS... THIS MAY BE EVEN A BIGGER LAUGH THAN WHAT I DOPED OUT!
D-DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE BETTER TO FIND OUT IF ARKWRIGHT IS ALL RIGHT? H-HE MIGHT'VE FALLEN DOWN THOSE RICKETY STAIRS, OR...
TURNING YELLOW, CHAVEZ? GET INTO THAT HOUSE BEFORE I COUNT TEN.. OR EVERYONE ON THE CAMPUS'LL KNOW YOU'RE CHICKEN!
SLOWLY, HIS FACE REFLECTING A HORRIBLE FEAR, UNDERCLASSMAN CHAVEZ DISAPPEARED INTO THE HOUSE. TWICE HIS FLASHLIGHT BLINKED, THEN...
T-THIS IS CRAZY! IT.. IT'S TEN MINUTES SINCE CHAVEZ STOOD IN THAT SECOND FLOOR WINDOW...
HE..HE JUST SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED, ALONG WITH ARKWRIGHT!
VANISHED, MY EYE! THEY'RE YELLOW, THAT'S WHAT! GOT TO THE SECOND FLOOR, THEN TURNED AROUND AND CAME BACK DOWNSTAIRS! THEY'RE PROBABLY CROUCHING BY THE FRONT ENTRANCE, SHAKING IN THEIR BOOTS! BUT THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT... BREEN, C'MERE!
YOU GO IN THERE AND TELL ARKWRIGHT AND CHAVEZ THAT I WANTA SEE THREE FACES IN THAT ATTIC WINDOW! IF I DON'T, NONE OF YOU GETS INTO DELTA GAMMA THIS YEAR OR EVER! NOW GET MOVING!
THE MOMENTS TICKED BY AND THE TENSION MOUNTED. IN THE FIRST FLOOR WINDOW YOUNG BREEN HELD A LIGHTED MATCH, AND HIS FACE WAS ASHEN WITH FRIGHT. THEN...
T-THERE HE IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR! L-LET'S PRAY HE GETS TO THE ATTIC!


MOMENTS LATER, FRIGHTENED YOUNG BREEN APPEARED AT THE SECOND FLOOR WINDOW AND LIT HIS MATCH. THEN A MINUTE PASSED..TWO.. FIVE.. AND THE HAUNTED HOUSE REMAINED DARK AND DEATHLY QUIET...
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH, REX! I'M ALL FOR CALLING THE POLICE... THOSE THREE KIDS DISAPPEARED AS IF THE EARTH SWALLOWED 'EM UP!
AW, STOP BEATING YOUR GUMS, YOU JERKS! THEY'RE TAKING US FOR A RIDE!

THERE WAS A REAL SURPRISE WAITING UP IN THAT ATTIC, BUT NOT ONE OF THOSE YELLOW DOGS HAD THE COURAGE TO GET THAT FAR! GIMME THAT FLASHLIGHT! I'M GOING INTO THAT DUMP AND THROW ARKWRIGHT, CHAVEZ AND BREEN OUT!


Y-YOU THINK SOMETHING DID HAPPEN TO THE THREE PLEDGES? MAYBE AN ACCIDENT ON THE STAIRS OR...
WE NEVER SHOULD'VE LET CHANDLER STAGE THIS INITIATION... IT'S ALL OUR FAULT! HE'S A HOT-HEADED BULLY..AND MEAN AS A CIVET CAT!

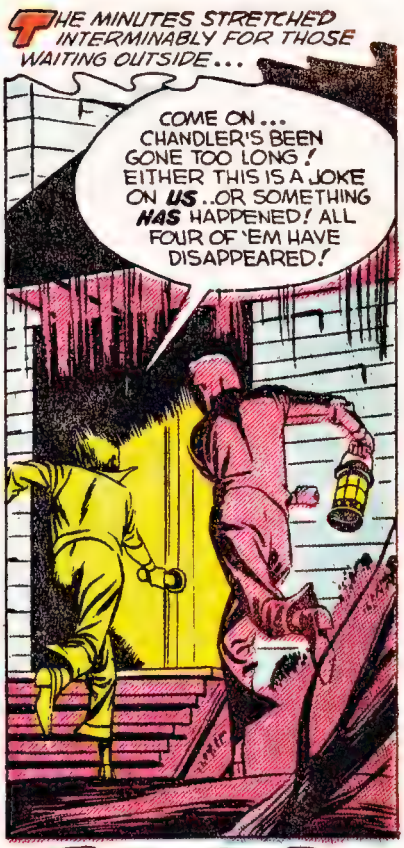
T-THERE'S CHANDLER AT THE FIRST FLOOR WINDOW...
DO I LOOK AS IF I'VE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY GHOSTS, YOU JERKS? I TOLD YOU THIS WAS ALL A BIG JOKE... BUT WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THOSE THREE PLEDGES THE COMEDY STOPS!
CRASH!

FIFTEEN SECONDS PASSED.. A HALF-MINUTE... THEN ON THE SECOND FLOOR LANDING...
THE SPOOKS DON'T SEEM TO HAMPER ME, DO THEY? STAND BY TO CATCH THE THREE RATS WHEN I THROW 'EM OUT!
CRASH!

MEBBE WHAT I PLANTED IN THE ATTIC IS A LITTLE SCARY...BUT IT DOESN'T KEEP A TRUE DELTA GAMMA FROM RISKING HIS NECK! WAIT'LL YOU GUYS SEE WHAT IT IS... HEE HEE HEE... YOU'LL DIE LAUGHING! TA TA, NOW..I GOT A DATE WITH A REAL SURPRISE!

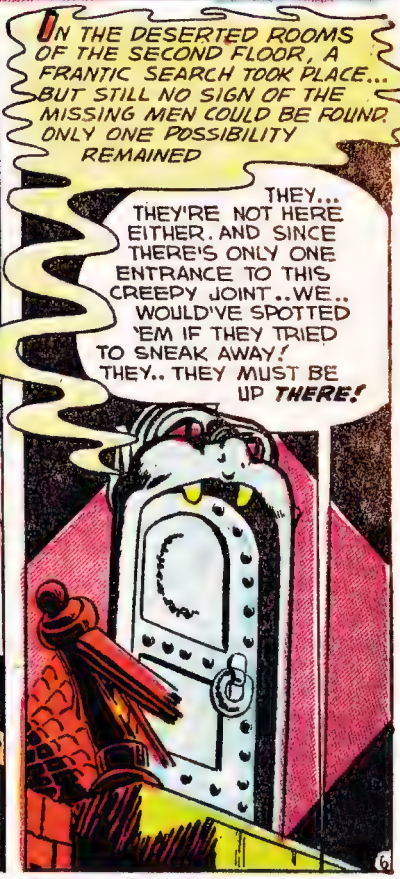
I- I DON'T LIKE THAT INSANE LAUGH OF HIS. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE HID UP IN THAT ATTIC TO SCARE THE PLEDGES?
W-WHAT-EVER IT IS, WE'LL SOON KNOW!

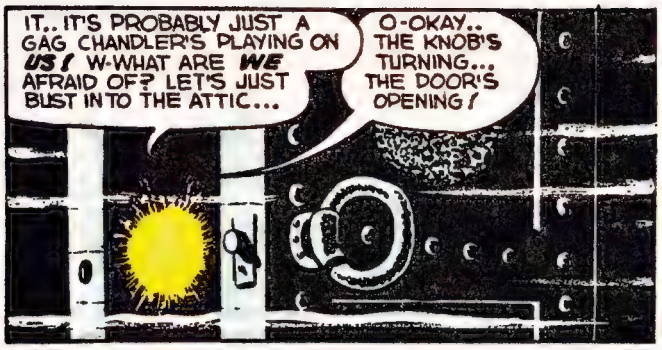
THE LAUGH WOULD REALLY BE ON CHANDLER IF THOSE THREE UNDERCLASSMEN ARE WAITING TO JUMP HIM AND GIVE HIM THE BEATING OF HIS LIFE! HE'S BEEN RIDING THEM UNMERCIFULLY EVER SINCE THIS HAZING STARTED... MAYBE THIS IS THEIR METHOD OF GETTING REVENGE!


THE MINUTES STRETCHED INTERMINABLY FOR THOSE WAITING OUTSIDE...
COME ON... CHANDLER'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG! EITHER THIS IS A JOKE ON US..OR SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED! ALL FOUR OF 'EM HAVE DISAPPEARED!

YOU SEARCH THE ROOMS OFF TO THIS SIDE, WHILE I GO OVER THE BACK OF THE HOUSE WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB. IF THIS IS REX'S IDEA OF A JOKE ON THE FRAT BROTHERS, I'M GOING TO HAVE HIM BROUGHT UP ON CHARGES! START LOOKING ...THIS PRANK'S GONE FAR ENOUGH!

NOT A SIGN OF THEM ON THIS FLOOR! EITHER THEY'RE UP ON THE SECOND FLOOR OR ..OR THEY DID GET TO THE ATTIC! LET'S GO... FIND THOSE GUYS!

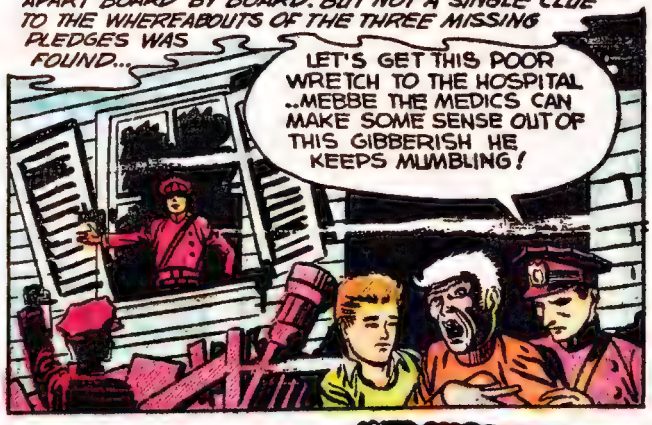

IN THE DESERTED ROOMS OF THE SECOND FLOOR, A FRANTIC SEARCH TOOK PLACE... BUT STILL NO SIGN OF THE MISSING MEN COULD BE FOUND. ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY REMAINED
THEY... THEY'RE NOT HERE EITHER. AND SINCE THERE'S ONLY ONE ENTRANCE TO THIS CREEPY JOINT..WE.. WOULD'VE SPOTTED 'EM IF THEY TRIED TO SNEAK AWAY! THEY.. THEY MUST BE UP THERE!


IT.. IT'S PROBABLY JUST A GAG CHANDLER'S PLAYING ON US! W-WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF? LET'S JUST BUST INTO THE ATTIC...
O-OKAY.. THE KNOB'S TURNING... THE DOOR'S OPENING!

C-CHANDLER! HE-HE'S AGED FIFTY YEARS SINCE WE SAW HIM THROUGH THAT SECOND FLOOR WINDOW!
HIS HAIR... WHITE AS SNOW! AND THE WAY HE'S MUMBLING ..HE'S INSANE!

B-BUT ARKWRIGHT, CHAVEZ AND BREEN.. NOT A SIGN OF THEM! QUICK, LEN... RACE BACK TO TOWN AND GET THE POLICE! I..I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS AT ALL!

WITHIN AN HOUR THE POLICE HAD CONDUCTED AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF THE OLD HOUSE, TAKING IT APART BOARD BY BOARD. BUT NOT A SINGLE CLUE TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE THREE MISSING PLEDGES WAS FOUND...



REX CHANDLER DIED THE NEXT DAY OF EXTREME SHOCK, THE DOCTORS AGREED! AND THE GRUESOME SIGHT WHICH GREETED HIM WHEN HE ENTERED THAT ATTIC WILL NEVER BE KNOWN.. BECAUSE THE HOUSE WAS BURNT DOWN A SHORT TIME LATER, BY ORDER OF THE BEWILDERED AUTHORITIES!

ARKWRIGHT, CHAVEZ AND BREEN? THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN AGAIN! WHAT STRANGE AND HORRIBLE FATE ENGULFED THEM WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN! JUST ONE OF THOSE Things, I IMAGINE! WHAT DO YOU THINK? The Thing

HOW TO BECOME A WEREWOLF

THE EERIE AND FANTASTIC WRITINGS OF NINETEENTH CENTURY "EXPERTS" ON OCCULT AFFAIRS STATE THAT THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM ONESELF FROM A MAN INTO A WOLF MAY BE ACQUIRED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN RITES ORDAINED BY BLACK MAGIC.

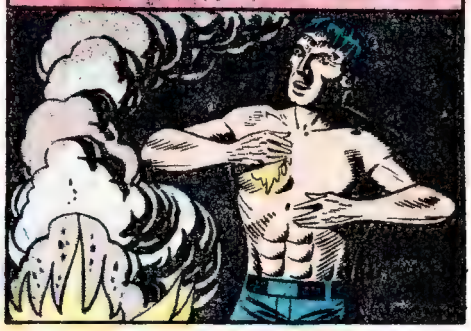
THE PERSON DESIROUS OF BECOMING A WEREWOLF MUST BE IN EARNEST AND A BELIEVER IN SUPERPHYSICAL PHENOMENA. THE FIRST THING HE MUST DO IS GO TO AN UNINHABITED PLACE LIKE A DESERT, FOREST OR MOUNTAIN TOP ON A NIGHT WHEN THE MOON IS NEW AND STRONG.

ON A PERFECTLY LEVEL PIECE OF GROUND, AT MIDNIGHT, HE MUST MAKE A CIRCLE OF NOT LESS THAN SEVEN FEET IN RADIUS AND, WITHIN THIS, ANOTHER CIRCLE THREE FEET IN RADIUS. IN THE INNER CIRCLE HE MUST KINDLE A FIRE AND BOIL SOME WATER IN AN IRON VESSEL.

AS SOON AS THE WATER BOILS HE MUST THROW IN ANY THREE OF THE FOLLOWING: ASAFETIDA, PARSLEY, OPIUM, HEMLOCK, HENBANE, SAFFRON, POPPY-SEED OR SOLANIUM AND REPEAT THE MYSTIC VERSE WHILE DOING SO.

WOLVES, VAMPIRES, SATYRS, GHOSTS!! ELECT OF ALL THE DEVILISH HOSTS! I PRAY YOU SEND HITHER SEND HITHER, SEND HITHER! THE GREAT GREY SHAPE THAT MAKES ME SHIVER!

THE NEXT STEP IS TO TAKE OFF HIS SHIRT AND SMEAR HIS BODY WITH THE FAT OF SOME NEWLY KILLED ANIMAL (PREFERABLY A CAT) MIXED WITH ANISEED, CAMPHOR AND OPIUM.



WITH A GIRDLE MADE OF WOLF-SKIN BOUND AROUND HIM AND KNEELING IN THE LARGER CIRCLE, HE WAITS FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THE GREAT UNSEEN POWER.

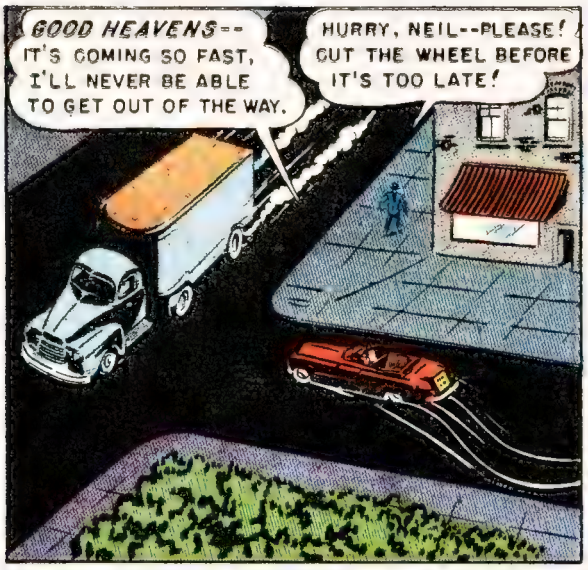
WHEN THE FIRE BURNS BLUE AND QUICKLY DIES OUT, THE POWER APPEARS AND ---

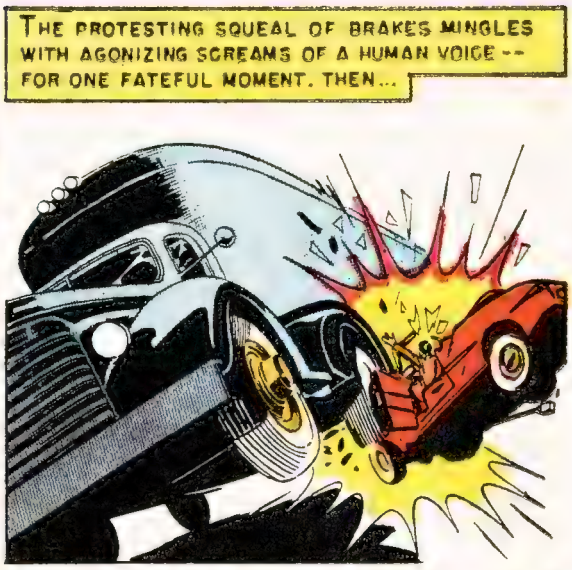
ACCORDING TO THESE SAME SELF-ACCLAIMED "EXPERTS", OTHER MEANS OF BECOMING A WEREWOLF WITHOUT DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE UNSEEN POWER IS 1: EAT A WOLF'S BRAIN. 2: DRINK WATER OUT OF A WOLF'S FOOT-PRINT 3: DRINK OUT OF A STREAM FROM WHICH THREE OR MORE WOLVES HAVE BEEN SEEN TO DRINK.

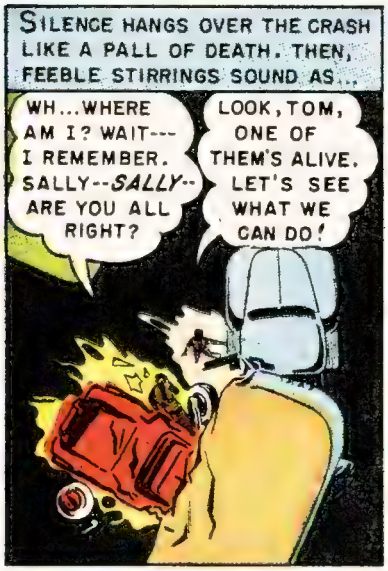
World of Fear #10, June 1953. Artist unknown. Publisher: Fawcett Publications.

a honeymoon of HORROR!
SMITH
SALLY RICHARDS
BELOVED WIFE OF NEIL RICHARDS 1928-1951
THE CEREMONY ENDED AND SALLY AND NEIL RICHARDS WERE MAN AND WIFE. BUT LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE THAT THE CHILLING HAND OF DEATH HAD BEEN AT THE ORGAN, ACCOMPANYING THEM DOWN THE AISLE TO THE STRAINS OF A FUNERAL MARCH... SPINNING A WEB OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR AS THEY STARTED ON A HONEY-MOON OF HORROR!
LOUIS RAVIELLI
SO LONG, MOM AND DAD, SALLY, I'LL WRITE YOU AS SOON AS WE GET TO CENTRAL FALLS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, SON. YOU KIDS HAVE FUN AND MAKE YOUR HONEYMOON SOMETHING TO REMEMBER. GOOD-BYE, MR. AND MRS. RICHARDS!
JUST MARRIED
GOSH, IT'S LIKE A DREAM, SALLY. YOU'RE MY WIFE AT LAST. I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
YOU'D BETTER, NEIL RICHARDS, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO BE FROM NOW ON -- 'TIL DEATH DO US PART!
BRR--DO YOU HAVE TO GET SO GRIM ABOUT IT? I'D RATHER TALK ABOUT MORE PLEASANT... WAIT--WHAT'S THAT?
NEIL, DARLING -- COMING OUT OF THAT SIDE STREET! WATCH OUT!

Eerie #16, June-July 1954. Artist: Louis Ravielli. Publisher: Avon Periodicals.



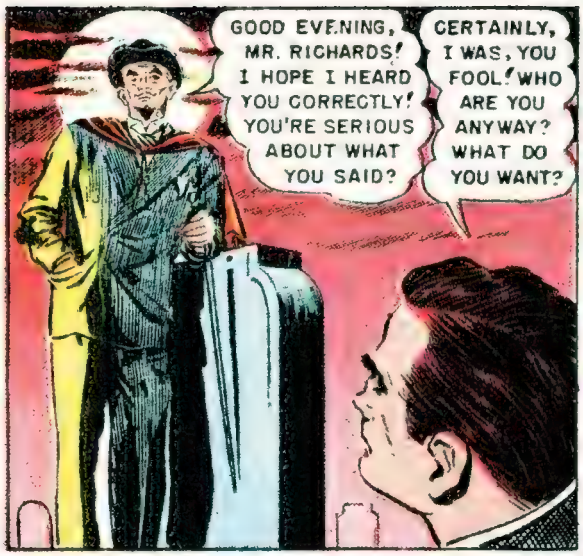



SILENCE HANGS OVER THE CRASH LIKE A PALL OF DEATH. THEN, FEEBLE STIRRINGS SOUND AS...
WH...WHERE AM I? WAIT--- I REMEMBER. SALLY--SALLY-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LOOK, TOM, ONE OF THEM'S ALIVE. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO!

MY WIFE--SHE'S PINNED IN THERE. I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER. WE CAN'T LET HER DIE.
HOLD ON, BUD, YOU CAN'T MOVE THAT STUFF BY YOURSELF. I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND. WAIT--THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY NOW.
JUST MARRIED

FOR DAYS, NEIL RICHARDS IS A MAN LIVING IN A SHADOW WORLD. HIS WIFE'S FUNERAL, BURIAL -- EVERYTHING IS LOST IN THE DIM HAZE OF A SORROW-CRUSHED MIND. ONLY ONE THING IS REAL-- *THE GRAVE*. AND DAY AFTER DAY, NEIL RETURNS TO KEEP A MOURNFUL VIGIL, AS...

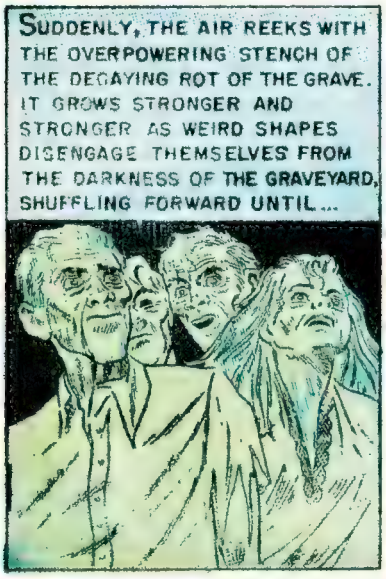
I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU, SALLY DEAR, *NEVER!* OH, IF ONLY I COULD SEE YOU, HEAR YOU... TOUCH YOU ONCE MORE. I'D DO ANYTHING FOR THAT.
SALLY RICHARDS


GOOD EVENING, MR. RICHARDS! I HOPE I HEARD YOU CORRECTLY! YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID?
CERTAINLY, I WAS, YOU FOOL! WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

JUST CALL ME MR. PRIM--A FRIEND IN YOUR TIME OF NEED, RICHARDS. IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP YOU SEE YOUR BELOVED WIFE AGAIN.
WHAT? HOW CAN *YOU* DO THIS? TELL ME... QUICKLY!

BLINDED BY THE UNREASONING DESIRE OF A GRIEF-FILLED MIND, RICHARDS LISTENS TO A STRANGE BARGAIN OFFERED BY THE DARK STRANGER, AS...
SEE HOW SIMPLE IT IS, MY FRIEND? YOU ENTRUST YOUR LIFE TO ME, AND I IN TURN, WILL BRING YOUR WIFE BACK TO YOU. NOW, ONE MORE FORMALITY...YOU MUST SIGN THIS PACT--IN BLOOD!

THERE...IT'S DONE! NOW WHERE'S SALLY? I MUST SEE MY WIFE!
PATIENCE, RICHARDS! FIRST I WANT YOU TO MEET MY HELPERS. THEY ARE PEOPLE, LIKE YOURSELF WHO HAVE MADE THE BARGAIN. COME FORWARD, FRIENDS!


SUDDENLY, THE AIR REEKS WITH THE OVERPOWERING STENCH OF THE DECAYING ROT OF THE GRAVE. IT GROWS STRONGER AND STRONGER AS WEIRD SHAPES DISENGAGE THEMSELVES FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE GRAVEYARD, SHUFFLING FORWARD UNTIL...

GOOD LORD--WHO ARE THESE HORRIBLE CREATURES, MR. PRIM?
THEY, TOO, SIGNED THE PACT AND ARE UNITED IN DEATH WITH THEIR LOVED ONES. THEY'RE HERE TO WELCOME YOU AND YOUR WIFE AMONG THEM.

SLOWLY, THE OVERWHELMING GHASTLINESS OF WHAT HE'S DONE BECOMES CLEAR TO NEIL.
NO, PRIM, I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS TO SALLY AND ME. I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT I WAS DOING. YOU'RE THE DEVIL INCARNATE!
3

LOOK, MY FRIENDS! RICHARDS IS NOT HAPPY WITH HIS BARGAIN. STOP HIM! WE'LL SOON MAKE HIM COOPERATIVE.
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU UNHOLY THINGS! GET BACK TO THE GRAVE... WHERE YOU BELONG!
THERE--I'M FREE! I MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE.
RUN, YOU STUPID FOOL, BUT YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE MR. PRIM. WE'VE MADE A BARGAIN AND... I'LL COLLECT. I ALWAYS DO IN THE END.
THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED WERE A TORTURE FOR NEIL RICHARDS. THERE WAS NO PEACE, DAY OR NIGHT...
YOUR DEBT, RICHARDS! IT MUST BE PAID!
GO AWAY, YOU FIEND! I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!
DON'T TOUCH ME... DON'T! HELP-- I'M LOST!
THEY'RE KILLING ME! AARGH!
POOR NEIL! HE'S HAVING THAT SAME NIGHTMARE AGAIN. WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM... SOMEHOW!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SON! WE'RE HERE. COME ON, NEIL, SNAP OUT OF IT, BOY!
WH... WHAT HAPPENED? OH... DAD-- IT'S YOU. THAT SAME DREAM--OVER AND OVER...
LOOK, SON, YOU'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF. WHY DON'T YOU SEE DR. KUBNOR, THE PSYCHIATRIST! I'M SURE HE'LL HELP YOU FIGHT THIS.
I DON'T KNOW, DAD! I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT ANYMORE. PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL SEE HIM TOMORROW.

NEXT DAY, IN THE OFFICE OF THE PSYCHIATRIST...
THAT'S THE WHOLE GRUESOME STORY, DOC! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
YES, MR. RICHARDS. IN MY PROFESSION I'VE COME TO BELIEVE MANY STRANGE THINGS. STILL, I THINK YOU'RE THE VICTIM OF YOUR OWN MIND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I TELL YOU I SAW AND HEARD ALL THESE THINGS! I EVEN SIGNED MY LIFE AWAY IN BLOOD... MY OWN BLOOD.
EASY, NEIL! ALL I WAS TRYING TO SAY WAS THAT YOU WERE PROBABLY SUFFERING A HALLUCINATION, BROUGHT ON BY THE SHOCK OF YOUR WIFE'S DEATH.
WE'LL SEE, NEIL. I'LL TRY TO HELP YOU. BUT YOU AND ONLY YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONQUER THIS DEVIL WHO TORMENTS YOU!
SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY, UNDER THE EXPERT CARE OF DOCTOR KUBNOR, NEIL RICHARDS BEGINS TO FIND HIS WAY BACK TO THE WORLD OF REALITY AND SANITY. THEN ONE DARK NIGHT, WEEKS LATER...
THIS IS THE FINAL TEST OF MY TREATMENT, NEIL. YOU MUST OVERCOME THE FEAR AND DREAD THAT SEIZED YOU HERE. AND I KNOW YOU WILL.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, DOC. WAIT--- PARK THE CAR RIGHT HERE.
PINEHAVEN CEMETARY
GO ON, NEIL, I'LL WAIT. YOUR BATTLE'S OUT OF MY HANDS NOW. YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT ALONE FROM HERE ON IN!
DON'T WORRY, DOC, I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE. I'LL SEE YOU IN A LITTLE WHILE.
CAREFULLY, NEIL PICKS HIS WAY THROUGH THE WET, WINDSWEPT CEMETERY...
DOC WAS RIGHT. NOTHING'S HAPPENED YET!
WAIT--- THAT NOISE BEHIND ME! GOOD LORD--- MR. PRIM!
WELCOME HOME, MR. RICHARDS. I SEE YOU'VE RETURNED TO KEEP YOUR BARGAIN WITH ME!
5

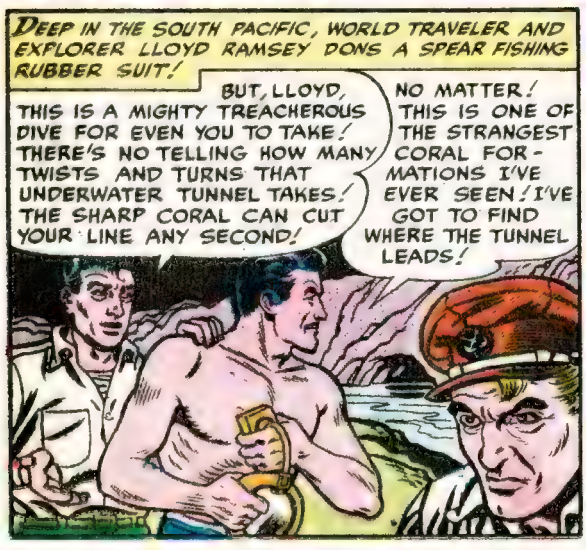
STOP IT--YOU DON'T EXIST! YOU'RE JUST A PHANTOM OF MY IMAGINATION. GO AWAY!
DON'T BE A FOOL, RICHARDS! TONIGHT I HAVE A LOVELY SURPRISE FOR YOU. LOOK, MY FRIEND!
IT...IT'S SALLY! YOU FILTHY BEAST--YOU'VE MADE HER ONE OF YOUR DEVIL'S-SPAWN!
QUITE THE CONTRARY, MY DEAR RICHARDS, YOU DID. I HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE TO PROVE IT, TOO. BUT, WE WASTE PRECIOUS TIME TALKING. THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR YOU TO JOIN YOUR BRIDE. TAKE HIM, MY FRIENDS!
AT THE COMMAND OF THEIR MASTER, THE UNCLEAN DWELLERS OF THE GROUND CREEP CLOSER AND CLOSER TO NEIL RICHARDS. SUDDENLY...
AARGH--DR. KUBNOR--HELP ME! HELP!
AS OUTSIDE THE CEMETERY...
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE TOUGH ON THE BOY, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO CURE HIS FEARS. I HOPE HE'S...WAIT--THAT SCREAM! IT'S NEIL!
I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM...AND QUICKLY! I'VE NEVER HEARD A HUMAN VOICE SO ANGUISHED. WHAT'S THAT UP AHEAD?
GOOD HEAVENS... THOSE HIDEOUS, MISSHAPEN THINGS. THEY SEEM TO BE CARRYING OFF SOMEONE. IT'S TOO DARK... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING CLEARLY.

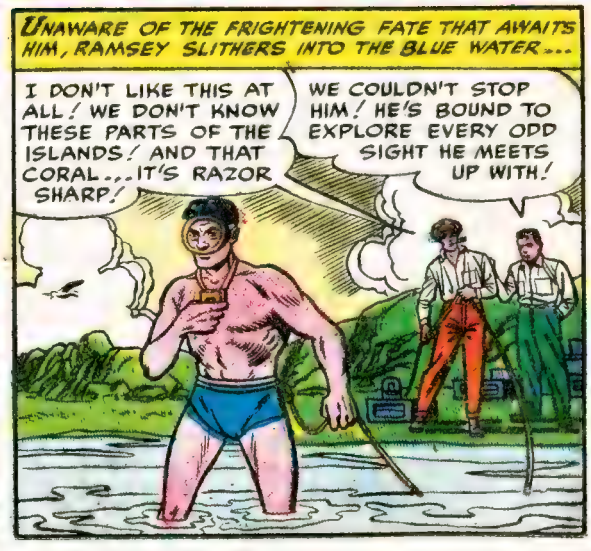
THEY'RE INHUMAN--NO MAN COULD HAVE DREAMED OF THESE BEINGS. FIGHT THEM, NEIL, I'M COMING!
BUT AS THE DOCTOR HASTENS TO AID HIS STRUGGLING FRIEND, HIS FOOT SINKS INTO THE SLIME OF A GRAVE, AND...
OOH!
NOW ONLY THE DISMAL MOANING OF THE WIND IN THE TREES BREAKS THE HUSH OF THE DEAD. SOMETIME LATER...
OHH... MY HEAD--- WAIT, I MUST FIND THE BOY! NEIL... NEIL... WHERE ARE YOU?
THERE'S HIS WIFE'S GRAVE! GOOD LORD--- THOSE FOOTPRINTS COULD ONLY BE HIS! THEY GO RIGHT TO THE EDGE OF THE GRAVE AND DISAPPEAR!
HE'S JOINED HIS WIFE AT LAST! WHAT AM I SAYING? I'M A DOCTOR... THIS IS MADNESS. I MUST GET HELP. STILL WHO'S GOING TO LISTEN TO ME WHEN I TELL THIS STORY?
STUMBLING THROUGH THE CEMETERY, DR. KUBNOR ARRIVES AT THE CARETAKER'S HOUSE. IN A FRENZY, HE SHOUTS AND BANGS ON THE DOOR...
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE IN. I NEED YOUR HELP--- DESPERATELY!
MY, MY... SUCH NOISE! WELL, WHAT IS IT, MY FRIEND?
I'LL SAY YOU DO. YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE JUST SEEN A GHOST! COME IN, AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU!
THE END

STUDY WELL THE FACES OF THOSE ABOUT YOU! NOTICE ANY THREE-EYED DEMONS? MAD? CRAZY? PERHAPS... AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY THOUGHT LLOYD RAMSEY WAS WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO WARN US OF "THEIR" PRESENCE! BUT READ ON... AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU COULD POSSIBLY BELIEVE THE FANTASTIC TALE OF THE SUB-HUMANS WHO INFILTRATED OUR CIVILIZATION FROM...

THE CAVERN OF THE DAMNED

THERE...AND THERE...THE ONES WITH THE THREE EYES! T-THE SUB-HUMANS FROM BELOW...THEY ARE OUT TO CONQUER THE WORLD! ARREST THEM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THIS GUY'S REALLY BLOWN HIS TOP!
YEAH! WE'D BETTER TAKE HIM TO THE PSYCHO WARD... FAST!


DEEP IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, WORLD TRAVELER AND EXPLORER LLOYD RAMSEY DONS A SPEAR FISHING RUBBER SUIT!
BUT, LLOYD, THIS IS A MIGHTY TREACHEROUS DIVE FOR EVEN YOU TO TAKE! THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY TWISTS AND TURNS THAT UNDERWATER TUNNEL TAKES! THE SHARP CORAL CAN CUT YOUR LINE ANY SECOND!
NO MATTER! THIS IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST CORAL FORMATIONS I'VE EVER SEEN! I'VE GOT TO FIND WHERE THE TUNNEL LEADS!


UNAWARE OF THE FRIGHTENING FATE THAT AWAITS HIM, RAMSEY SLITHERS INTO THE BLUE WATER...
I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL! WE DON'T KNOW THESE PARTS OF THE ISLANDS! AND THAT CORAL...IT'S RAZOR SHARP!
WE COULDN'T STOP HIM! HE'S BOUND TO EXPLORE EVERY ODD SIGHT HE MEETS UP WITH!

Web of Evil #10, January 1954. Artist: Vernon Henkel. Publisher: Comic Magazine.

DOWN, DOWN INTO THE EERIE DEPTHS MOVES THE DARING ADVENTURER...
UP AHEAD! GREAT THUNDER! THERE'S SOME SORT OF MONSTROUS CAVERN THERE!
THEN AS THE STARTLED EXPLORER SURFACES A MOMENT LATER...
YI!EEEOOO!
G-GOOD HEAVENS!
ABRUPTLY, FIEND-LIKE CREATURES SWARM TO THE ALARM! THE UNDERGROUND HELL ENSNARES RAMSEY IN ITS TENTACLES...
IT IS A STRANGE FISH FROM THE DEEP!
NO! IT IS ONE OF THEM...SEE THE LIFE LINE ATTACHED TO IT! QUICKLY! SEVER THE LINE!
I-IT CAN'T BE! I--I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT FROM THE DEPTHS! O-OR GONE... MAD!
AS THE DENIZENS OF EVIL LEAD THEIR PREY FROM THE WATER...
GOOD GRIEF! THEIR THIRD EYES! LIKE BURNING PIECES OF CHARCOAL IN THEIR FOREHEADS! WHO ON EARTH COULD THEY BE?
WALK!
SOON, RAMSEY LEARNS THE GRIM ANSWER AS...
Y-YOU! YOU ARE AS I AM... EXCEPT FOR THE HIDEOUS EYE YOU ARE A NORMAL MAN!
INDEED I AM, EARTH PERSON! FOR I HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND FED TO DUPLICATE YOUR RACE! OUR BASIC STRUCTURE IS NEARLY THE SAME!
B-BUT WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU UP TO?
OUR RACE WAS DROPPED FROM THE PLANETS A CENTURY AGO! OUR OBJECT? TO CONQUER YOUR WORLD! AT PRESENT THOUSANDS OF US HAVE INFILTRATED INTO YOUR SOCIETY! WAITING...WAITING TO STRIKE!
2

THIS IS SOME FANTASTIC JOKE! YOU'RE MAD! HOW COULD SUCH AS YOU, WITH THAT HORRIBLE THIRD EYE, INFILTRATE MY SOCIETY WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED?
QUITE SIMPLE... SINCE WE HAVE DEVELOPED THE SKIN SPRAY! HAND IT TO ME, ZARTAN!
In CHILLED FASCINATION RAMSEY WATCHES AS THE SUB-HUMAN CREATURE SPRAYS A STRANGE MIST UPON HIS FORE-HEAD!
THIS SPRAY WAS THE LAST DISCOVERY NEEDED TO ASSURE US OF MASTERY OVER YOU EARTH PEOPLES... WATCH!
GOOD GRIEF! THE EYE... IT'S VANISHING!
OF COURSE, THERE IS ONE WEAKNESS STILL! THE PLANET SOLUTION WE USE IN THE SPRAY DOES NOT PICK UP ON YOUR MODERN DAY MIRRORS! BUT THAT IS A SMALL PROBLEM! AND SOON WE SHALL DEFEAT IT!
UNBELIEVABLE! Y-YOU MEAN THERE ARE THOUSANDS LIKE YOU PLANNING THE INVASION OF EARTH?
COUNTLESS THOUSANDS! THEY WAIT IN KEY POSITIONS ONLY FOR THE PROPER MOMENT TO STRIKE! BUT ENOUGH! CONFINE HIM FOR TESTS!
I-INCREDIBLE!
WITHIN THE DUNGEON THE DAMNED RAMSEY RESTS! HIS HEAD SPINS WITH THE HORROR OF WHAT HE HAS SEEN!
SOMEHOW... SOMEWAY I MUST ESCAPE! I MUST WARN THE WORLD OF THIS TERRIBLE THING! BUT HOW?..THOSE SHELLS...AND CLAY..I WONDER!
FAR INTO THE NIGHT THE DESPERATE EXPLORER WORKS WITH HIS HANDS IN THE CLAY...
IT MUST WORK! IT MUST!
3
And BY MORNING...
NOW!

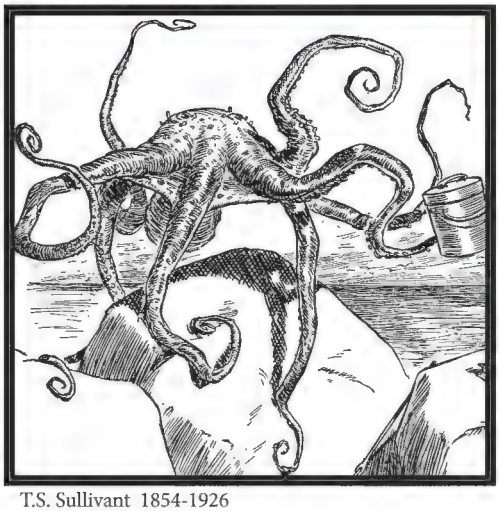
MOMENTS LATER...
I MUST BE CALM...CALM! I CAN ONLY PRAY THEY WILL NOT DISCOVER THE FALSE THIRD EYE MADE FROM CLAY AND COLORED SHELL!
SUDDENLY, FREEDOM IS WITHIN REACH...
THANK HEAVENS! I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR!
HALF DEAD FROM SUBMERSION AND LACK OF AIR THE EXPLORER FINALLY REACHES THE OUTLET...
FRESH AIR! SUNLIGHT! THE FIENDS MUST HAVE SLAIN MY COMPANIONS! I...I MUST WARN THE WORLD! I MUST GET AWAY FROM THIS ISLAND!
DAYS LATER, AS SAILORS FETCH A DESPERATE DERELICT FROM THE WATER...
WE FOUND HIM FLOATING ON A TREE LOG, SIR! SAYS HE'S JUST ESCAPED FROM SOME THREE-EYED DEMONS IN A CAVERN! DELIRIOUS, I GUESS!
I SEE! WELL, GET THE POOR CRAZED DEVIL BELOW DECKS! PROBABLY BEEN SHIPWRECKED FOR MONTHS! WE'LL DOCTOR HIM UP!
I TELL YOU IT'S TRUE! THE THREE-EYED MONSTERS HAVE INFILTRATED INTO OUR SOCIETY! THEY'RE GOING TO CONQUER THE WORLD!
SURE, SURE! NOW YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY, BUDDY, AND YOU'LL BE SHIP-SHAPE IN NO TIME A'TALL!
POOR CHAP! MUST HAVE HAD A REAL HARD TIME OF IT! GONE LOCO!
OF COURSE! HOW COULD I EXPECT SIMPLE SAILORS TO BELIEVE SUCH A FANTASTIC TALE? I MUST REMAIN CALM! WHEN I REACH NEW YORK I'LL SPEAK QUIETLY TO THE AUTHORITIES AND TELL THEM THE STORY!
LATER...
I MUST BE CAUTIOUS! ONLY I HAVE THEIR TERRIBLE SECRET! THEIR EMISSARIES WILL BE WARNED... SEARCHING FOR ME!
OFFICER!

SHORTLY F.B.I. OFFICIALS LISTEN AS RAMSEY TELLS HIS STORY...
SO YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, THAT'S WHY I BOUGHT THIS MIRROR! IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEIR THIRD EYE CAN BE SEEN! YOU MUST ACT AT ONCE! NOW...BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
YES, I ER SEE, MR. RAMSEY!
NOW THE OFFICER WILL SEE YOU HOME, SIR! YOU GET YOURSELF A GOOD REST AND COME BACK AND SEE US WHEN YOU FEEL BETTER!
GOOD HEAVENS! I'M NOT A CRACKPOT I TELL YOU! THESE ARE FACTS! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME! YOU'VE GOT TO!
NOW GET ALONG HOME AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!
THE FOOLS! FOOLS! MY LIFE IN DANGER...THE WORLD IN DANGER! WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN! THE MIRROR ... I'VE GOT TO KEEP WATCH BY THE MIRROR!
SUDDENLY, AS RAMSEY PEERS THROUGH HIS PROTECTIVE MIRROR...
YIIIII! IT'S ONE OF THEM!
THAT'S ONE OF THE SUB-HUMANS! THAT'S ONE OF THE DEVILS! GRAB HIM... QUICK!
THE MAN'S MAD!
SUFFERING CATS! I NEVER SHOULD'VE LET THAT CRACKPOT GO!
ALL RIGHT, BUSTER! IT'S THE CHUCKLE FACTORY FOR YOU!
LOOK! LOOK, OFFICER! YOU CAN SEE HIS THIRD EYE BY LOOKING IN THE MIRROR!
GOOD GRACIOUS! WHAT A CREATURE!
SEE! SEE! HE DELIBERATELY BROKE THE MIRROR SO I COULDN'T REVEAL HIM!
TWEET!
5

SURROUNDED BY FEAR, RAMSEY FINDS HIMSELF IN THE CITY ASYLUM ...
THEY TOOK MY MIRROR FROM ME! NOW I CAN'T TELL ... PERHAPS YOU ARE TWO OF THE THREE-EYED DEMONS!
EASY, EASY, FELLER! NOBODY'S ALLOWED TO HAVE MIRRORS IN HERE!
PLEASE ... PLEASE WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME? I ... SAW THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES WITH MY OWN EYES! THEY'RE HERE ... ALL AROUND US ... ALL OVER THE WHOLE WORLD!
SAY, CALM DOWN, MR. RAMSEY! DR. ENWRIGHT IS GOING TO EXAMINE YOU! IF HE FINDS YOU RAVING IT WILL MEAN THE VIOLENT WARD!
SURE ... BE SMART ... ACT NICE AND YOU'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF NICE!
WELL, SO THIS IS THE MR. RAMSEY I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT! COME RIGHT IN, SIR! YOU CAN GO, GUARDS!
DOCTOR, I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! IF ONLY SOMEBODY WOULD REALIZE I'M NOT INSANE!
NOW, NOW, I'LL LISTEN TO YOU, MR. RAMSEY! TELL ME, EVERYTHING!
YOU WILL LISTEN! DOCTOR, I WAS LOST IN A TERRIBLE CAVERN! I DISCOVERED SOMETHING THERE ... SOMETHING FRIGHTENING!
AS RAMSEY POURS HIS FANTASTIC TALE OUT ...
MOST INTERESTING! AND YOU SAY THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL THESE ... THESE THREE-EYED PEOPLE!
JUST ONE, DOCTOR ... OH-H!
THE THIRD EYE! YOU'RE ONE OF THEM! HELP! HELP! YIIIIII!
SHORTLY, THE CURTAIN IS RUNG DOWN FOREVER ON EXPLORER LLOYD RAMSEY AS ...
THEY WANT TO CONQUER THE WORLD! CAN'T YOU SEE? HE'S ONE OF THEM! DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU!
A PITY, BUT MR. RAMSEY IS A HOPELESS CASE! I'M AFRAID HE'LL BE CONFINED TO THE VIOLENT WARD FOR LIFE! I'LL MAKE OUT THE REPORT! HE'S ... COMPLETELY MAD!

Sir William Russell Flint 1880-1970

Gustav Adolf Mossa 1883-1971



T.S. Sullivant 1854-1926

John Austen 1886-1948

Erich Schultz

Life - 1889

AGELESS HORROR

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IDW WORDS

Deep and groovy ruminations from IDW's Man of Marketing, Dirk Wood

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BRINGING THE THUNDER

A wise man I know (okay, **Chris Ryall**) once told me "For some heroes, with great power comes great responsibility. The *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*? For them, with great power comes great paychecks."

That's right, this August, the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* are back! After a few years out of the limelight, the timeless heroes return to comics with a vengeance, in an ongoing series from writer **Phil Hester** and artist **Andrea Di Vito**!

And if you're curious about the Silver Age roots of the team, check out *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents Classics, Vol. 1*, featuring such comic luminaries as **Wally Wood**, **Gil Kane**, **Dan Adkins**, **Reed Crandall**, and more! And an all-new painted Wood tribute cover by **Greg Staples**!

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. rolls!

-Dirk

LOCKE & KEY: ALPHA #1

The first issue of ***Locke & Key: Alpha*** this month means two things: bad, bad times for the Locke family, and only one more issue to come in the epic final storyline of **Joe Hill** & **Gabriel Rodriguez**'s masterpiece. Don't miss it.

ON SALE IN AUGUST

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- The Crow: Curare #3
- Dinosaurs Attack #2
- Doctor Who #12
- Doctor Who: Prisoners of Time #8
- Doomsday.1 #4
- Dungeons & Dragons: Cutter #4
- Fever Ridge: A Tale of MacArthur's Jungle War #5
- Ghostbusters #7
- G.I. JOE #7
- G.I. JOE: A Real American Hero #193
- G.I. JOE: The Cobra Files #5
- G.I. JOE: Special Missions #6
- Godzilla: Rulers of Earth #3
- Half Past Danger #4
- Haunted Horror #6
- Judge Dredd #10
- Judge Dredd Classics #2
- KISS Kids #1
- Locke & Key: Alpha #1
- My Little Pony #10
- My Little Pony Cover Gallery #1
- My Little Pony: Mane 6 Micro-Series: Cutie Mark Crusaders #7
- Popeye Classics #13
- The Rocketeer/The Spirit: Pulp Friction! #2
- Star Trek #24
- Star Trek 100-Penny Press
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #25
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 100-Penny Press
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles New Animated Adventures #2
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Villain Micro-series: Karai #5
- Thumbprint by Joe Hill #3
- T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #1
- Transformers: Monstrosity #3
- Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye #20
- Transformers Prime: Beast Hunters #4
- Transformers: Regeneration One #94
- Transformers: Robots in Disguise #20
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- X-Files: Season 10 #3

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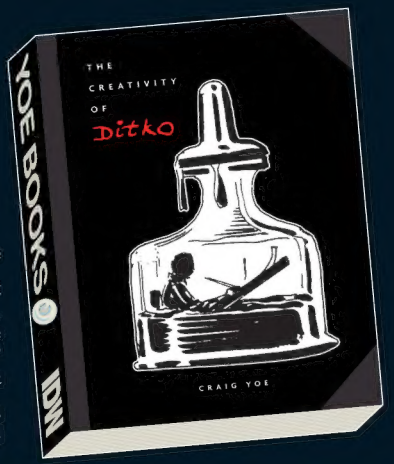

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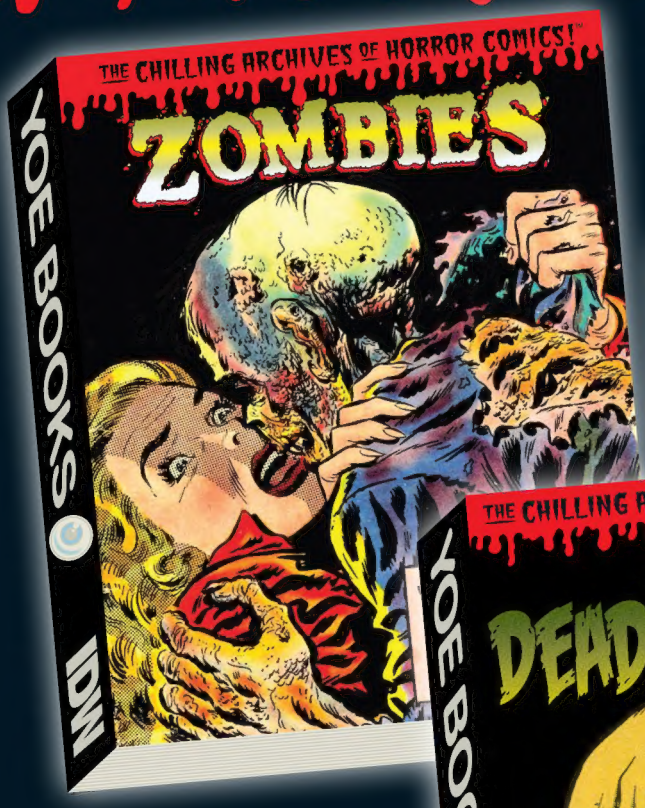

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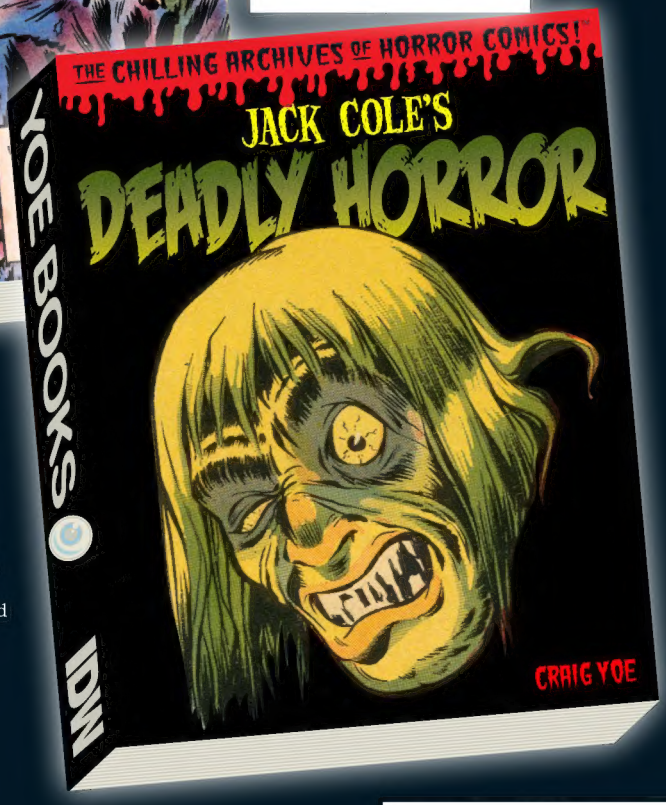

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